

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 1996

IN PRAISE OF OLDER MEN

Why young women go for golden oldies
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BEST FOR BOOKS

Andrew Roberts on Ben Pimlott's biography of the Queen
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PRAMS AND PERKS

What the nanny of the Nineties demands
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BEST FOR JOBS

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PAUL HACKETT/REUTERS

Relaxed Major earns show of unity

Tories clear their decks for election

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

MINISTERS cleared the decks ready for the general election yesterday by pruning controversial measures from the next parliamentary session to leave only populist Bills aimed at winning the votes of the "hardworking classes".

Expensive and contentious legislation, such as the introduction of identity cards and new rules on financing elderly people in nursing homes, has been dropped. Instead, the Government will concentrate on a crackdown on violent crime, benefit fraud and discipline in schools.

The pre-election campaign was reinforced by repeated calls for unity at the Conservative conference in Bournemouth, where John Major and Malcolm Rifkind swung the party behind the Cabinet true on Europe.

The Prime Minister was the star turn of the day as he discarded his jacket for an informal 70-minute question-and-answer session that overshadowed other speakers' policy announcements. His relaxed performance brought back memories of his meet-the-people campaigning style during the 1992 election campaign, which he intends to reproduce next year.

The session pleased party strategists, whose spirits were further lifted as it became clear that the representatives at the conference had no intention of rocking the boat. "We would have no patience with politicians who did,"

Yesterday the appeals for the party to unite behind Mr Major were led by the Cabinet

rightwingers Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo, who are happy for the time being to abide by the Prime Minister's wait-and-see approach to a single currency.

Mr Lilley used his speech on benefit fraud to demand an end to bickering, saying he was sick and tired of Conservatives who fuelled the media by sniping at their colleagues.

"In two minutes, they can undo all the good work you the party workers have done in a year."

Mr Portillo voiced similar sentiments at a fringe meeting, and in his conference speech today he will tell dissenters to pull their socks up and that the party needs "unity, unity, unity". Kenneth Clarke, the Cabinet's leading pro-European is also expected to steer clear of controversy when he addresses the conference today.

Yesterday Mr Rifkind won the support of the traditionally Euro-sceptic conference for the Cabinet line on a single currency. An early announcement ruling out membership would be unwise, against British interests and jeopardise the future of the City, he said. "To force a decision now just to differentiate ourselves from Labour would be to put party before country and, I suggest, the country would not be impressed."

Mr Major was also applauded when he called for caution. If the single currency went wrong it could "crack wide open the European Union as we have seen it build up over the last 25 years", he

Matthew Parry, page 2
Conference reports, pages 8,9
Peter Stothard, page 20
Leading article, page 21

BY ALAN HAMILTON

Prince consoles Dunblane parents at sombre service

London terrorist was IRA man
The IRA named Diarmuid O'Neill, the terrorist suspect who was shot dead by the police in an arms raid in west London last month, as one of its members, describing him as a volunteer.

It added that it had delayed the statement, which will appear in today's issue of the Sinn Fein newspaper, *Repubликian News*, out of respect for O'Neill's parents. They had asked for privacy at their son's funeral in Co Cork last week, which his Basque girlfriend, Carme Ereno, attended. Page 5

Off his bike

Lord Tebbit, who urged unemployed people to get "on your bike", said Britain's "cult of ageing" meant job prospects for executives aged 55 or over were bleak. Page 25

THE Prince of Wales last night spent an hour in private with the grieving parents of Dunblane after attending a memorial service which took the shattered town one further step out of its darkness.

He met the parents in a church hall next to Dunblane Cathedral after the service commemorating the 16 primary school children and their teacher who were killed by the gunman, Thomas Hamilton.

Six hundred bereaved parents, relatives and friends packed the cathedral along with policemen, ambulance men, nurses, workers and many others who had attended on the terrible events

The Prince, who had been invited to attend by the be-

reaved, sat in the front row. Close to him sat Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary and Dunblane's MP, and George Robertson, his Labour shadow who has lived in the town for 20 years.

Outside the cathedral the town was deserted and silent, as shops closed out of respect. At the ill-fated primary school, children were sent home at lunchtime.

Inside the cathedral, the Rev

Colin McIntosh, its minister, reminded his congregation that they were there not only to remember and celebrate the lives of 16 children and their teacher, but to mark a stage in

Continued on page 2, col 7

Hoax leads to call for press review

BY EMMA WILKINS

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, today calls for an urgent review of newspaper conduct in the wake of the hoax which led *The Sun* to publish faked pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In a letter to *The Times*, Lord Wakeham says the affair raises key issues over invasions of privacy and the use of the defence of public interest by newspapers.

The public as well as the Royal Family are having their confidence in the existing Code of Practice undermined after "a stream of injudicious stories centring on the private lives of public interest figures,

backed up only by the flimsiest of public interest defences", he says.

Public figures often choose

not to complain in order to

protect their children from

possible prolonged suffering

through an investigation by

his commission, but newspa-

pers must not take a lack of

complaint as carte blanche to

write what they like, he adds.

Calling for co-operation

from all newspapers, Lord

Wakeham goes on: "I believe

we need now to examine all

these issues carefully but ur-

gently to see what lessons can

be learnt."

Letters, page 21

Absent Estonia hand Scots victory in game that never was

By KEVIN McCARRA IN TALLINN AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE opposition never stood a chance, principally because they refused to take part. At the Kadiroff Stadium in Tallinn, Estonia, yesterday, Scotland trounced out behind the referee, Miroslav Radom, and prepared for kick-off in a World Cup qualifier. The other half of the field was empty, however, because Estonia, protesting over a change in the kick-off time, were still in their training camp some 30 miles away.

So it was that Billy Dodds knocked the ball off the centre spot for John Collins, the Scotland captain, to take a few steps forward before the official, with a blast of his whistle, brought the curtesy action to an end. It is now expected that FIFA, the

sport's governing body, will rule that this was a 3-0 victory for Scotland, although its decision will not be known until November 7.

The only other time that a World Cup qualifying game has been forfeited occurred in 1974. The Soviet Union refused to play their play-off return leg in Chile because they disapproved of the right-wing regime of General Pinochet, who had seized power after a coup. Chile kicked off in the empty stadium in Santiago, ran the ball into the goal and then the referee immediately abandoned the match which was awarded to Chile.

Yesterday's non-events, however, completely failed to umrue the 600 visiting supporters. "There's only one team in Tallinn," they yelled, and this time the old chant was nothing less than a statement

of fact. After the Scotland players left the field, one fan in a kilt ran on and, amid widespread jubilation, put the ball into an unattended net.

Estonians find no cause for merriment. On Tuesday night, Scotland complained about the unsuitability of the floodlights which had been installed for a match with a scheduled kick-off of 6.45pm. FIFA agreed that conditions were unacceptable and at 9am yesterday ruled that the game should begin in daylight at 3pm.

Estonia, refusing to comply, turned up as originally planned at 3pm. A small group of locals cheered, but Scotland had already departed. Somehow the day had brought two teams to an agreed stadium and still failed to produce any football.

World Cup reports, page 48



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Harvest festival disrupted as choir draws line at singing praises of mid-air refuelling

Choristers walk out in protest at modern hymns

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE choir of a renowned 12th-century Norfolk parish church has been split after members resigned in protest at having to sing in praise of jet planes refuelling in mid-air at the annual harvest festival.

The vicar's three children and a handful of others have been left alone in the choir stalls at St Mary's, Wroxham, known as "the cathedral of the Broads", after Carole Tims, the music director, and 11 choristers walked out after "inappropriate words" were exchanged in the vestry.

The discontent began six months ago after the vicar, the Rev Andrew Parsons, 43, introduced new monthly services with the local United Reformed Church congregation

and asked the choir to sing. Mrs Tims, a music teacher, felt some of the more modern songs at the service were beneath their choral skills. She felt her choir was already busy enough leading singing at the church's traditional communion and evensong, as well as funerals, weddings and twice-weekly practices.

Two out of eight adult members resigned in protest and 11 children were withdrawn by parents, leaving just seven children and a handful of adults.

The dispute reflects growing disarray throughout the Church as clergy attempt to persuade congregations to accept modern worship methods, often including guitar-led

music groups and "hymns" with simple, repetitive and catchy choruses. The problem has been exacerbated in some areas by a shortage of organists, who are often poorly paid for the hours they put in.

Mrs Tims, who has led the choir at St Mary's for six years, said: "Most of the parents are devastated and angry about what has been going on."

The choir had 20 young people aged from 9 to 20 and 11 loved coming to church.

Nick Walmsley, the organist, who has also told the vicar he is "unable to assist" until the dispute is settled, questioned whether Estelle White's *Autumn Days*, from the BBC's *Come and Praise* book, in which God is thanked for

refuelling jet planes, should have been used. "As an honorary member of an RAF squadron I know what is involved in mid-air refuelling and these lads need all the praise they can get. But to some in the church it was a little strong."

Nicola Drake, 15, who beat 3,000 other hopefuls to become one of eight finalists in the BBC's 1993 Chorgirl of the Year contest, is one of the 11 withdrawn from the choir.

Debbie Kemp, who withdrew her daughter Imogen, 14, the head chorister, and her three other children, Alex, 13, Katie, 11, and Gavin, 9, said: "They used to sing amazing anthems and choral works. The modern hymns were a step-down from what they were capable of."

Mr Parsons, who has been at St Mary's since 1993, said: "I am very sad that this has come about. This has been brewing for some time. I'm afraid they've been a little inflexible. As a parish church, we have to cater to different people in the community."

He said most hymns used at his church were traditional but the modern hymn at the centre of the controversy was "a firm favourite with the children". He added: "They love singing it. That seemed to me a reasonable justification for having it. It may not be the finest of hymns but it is seasonal and appreciated."

Verses that fuelled revolt in stalls

THE hymn the choir objected to, *Autumn Days*, was written by Estelle White about 20 years ago. It is featured in the BBC book *Come and Praise*, which has sold more than three million copies.

The first verse of the four-verse hymn goes:

Autumn days when the grass is jewelled

And the silk inside a chestnut shell,

Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled.

All these things I love so well.



Carole Tims: walked out

Patient tells of drugs and porn on secure ward

BY KATE ALDERSON

MEMBERS of staff on a ward at Ashworth high-security hospital supplied alcohol, drugs and pornographic videos to patients in return for cash, and allowed prostitutes and pimps to the ward, a court was told yesterday.

Byron Tomlinson, 35, a former patient at the Merseyside hospital, who is standing trial at Liverpool Crown Court accused of falsely imprisoning a psychologist and a fellow patient at knifepoint, alleged that patients had been ordering goods from catalogues and selling them on to staff.

Tomlinson denies holding Laraine el-Jazairi, a psychologist, and Roger Packham, a patient, hostage in the ward's library in June 1994. He told the court that, during his five months on Owen ward, large quantities of alcohol were brought on to the hospital ward by certain members of nursing staff. He said that cannabis was smoked openly and that there had been a level of collusion between some staff and patients. "On occasions the patients would have pre-arranged places to pick up drugs and go on shopping trips."

In an interview with Detective Sergeant Andrew Donnelly of Merseyside Police, which was read out in court, Tomlinson said that he had arrived on Owen ward in January 1994 and had been threatened by patients and suffered racism because he is black. The court was told that he had witnessed a patient's room being set on fire while another patient was inside it and that he stopped going to therapy sessions because he was afraid his room would be burnt.

During the interview with the police officer, Tomlinson said: "I was extremely para-

Duchess dismisses suicide reports

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE Duchess of York, in an unusual public discussion of her state of mind, denied yesterday that she was suicidal or that the Queen had offered to pay some of her debts in return for custody of her children.

In May 1994 Tomlinson told senior staff at the hospital about his allegations of activities on the ward. Two days before the alleged hostage-taking, he told Dr Zona Crispin, his psychiatrist, specifically about these allegations. This triggered a search of patients' rooms and the ward generally during which some weapons were found and a number of patients, including members of the "gang" Tomlinson referred to, were transferred to another ward. Visits to patients were also cancelled for a day.

The next day, Tomlinson was preparing for a visit from his girlfriend, which had been rescheduled from the day before. He was told that the visit had been cancelled and shortly afterwards, it is alleged, he burst into the staff room and took a long-bladed carving knife with which he chased members of staff while issuing threats.

"I never had any intention of hurting anybody," Tomlinson told the court. He said he fled into the library when he saw members of the control and restraint team coming on to the ward. He said that when he saw them he was worried about reports he had read in a newspaper about a prisoner dying after he was restrained and injected. Tomlinson then barricaded himself into the library where Mrs el-Jazairi and Mr Packham were. He told the court: "There was no intention of keeping them there as prisoners. Their presence in the library was saving my life."

The trial continues.

noid. The ward was out of control. This gang was intimidating me to the extent where I was going over the edge. I couldn't trust the staff because they were in collusion with the gang."

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The Duchess said that she did "not know yet" if she would live abroad in future.

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gifted is a blessing

in disguise: "You

must work on this

gift so that it does

not become a defect."

That is why she

constantly strives

to push her per-

formances beyond

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simple. "After that, you work on something

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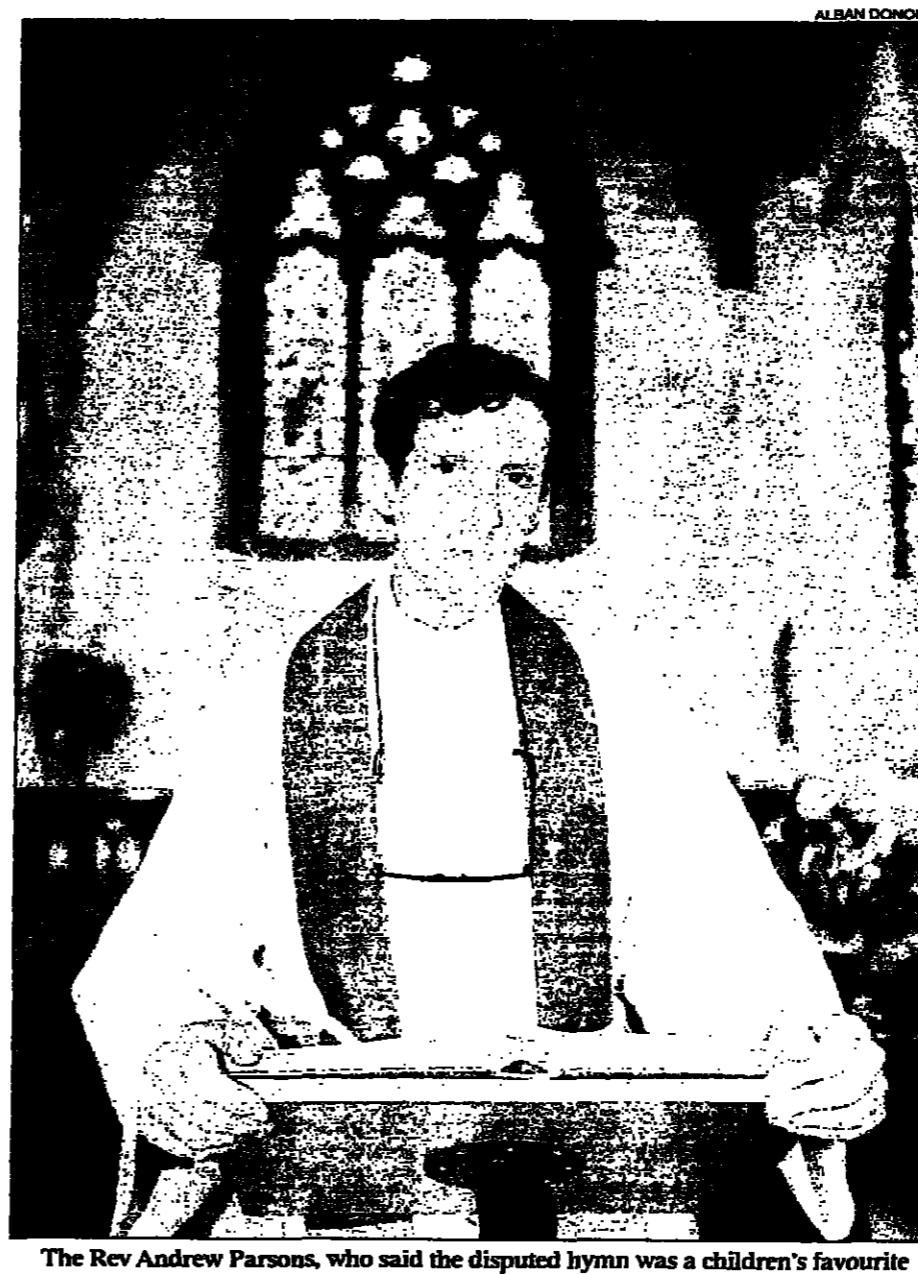
with her body."

In pursuit of this aim, Mlle. Guillem

replied: "Six o'clock. Precisely."

ROLEX

of Geneva



The Rev Andrew Parsons, who said the disputed hymn was a children's favourite

Geldof and Yates agree to share child care

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

BOB GELDOF and his former wife, Paula Yates, have agreed to continue sharing the care of their three daughters after a four-day custody hearing in the High Court.

Mark Stephens, the solicitor acting for Miss Yates, read a joint statement last night agreed by Mrs Justice Hale: "Two concerned parents came to court to do what each of them believed was right for their children."

They have now resolved matters in a way which they both believe to be in the best interests of the children. Bob and Paula have agreed that they will continue to share the care of their children. No further comment can or will be made.

Miss Yates, 36, flew from Australia for the hearing, leaving behind her boyfriend, the rock singer Michael Hutchence, and their two-month-old baby Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

Mr Geldof, 41, the former Boomtown Rats singer and Live Aid campaigner, applied two weeks ago for the custody of Fifi Trixibelle, 13, Peaches, 6, and Pixie, 4. The request followed the disclosure that drugs squad officers had allegedly discovered opium in a Smarties tube under Miss Yates's bed at the Geldofs' former matrimonial home in Chelsea. The couple left the court separately last night, but earlier Mr Geldof had put his arm around Miss Yates and kissed the top of her head.

Bookie pays out after pupil's appeal improves exam grade

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLBOY'S appeal against his GCSE French result was more like a stowaway's inquiry for his family, who had wagered that he would achieve ten starred-A grades.

Peter and Sylvia Houlton of Great Barr, Birmingham, bet £20 at 5-1 that 16-year-old Tony would get the extra recognition for outstanding work when his results were published in August. The bet was placed for them by John Waterson, Tony's grandfather. The family were dismayed when Tony received nine starred-As and one straight A in French.

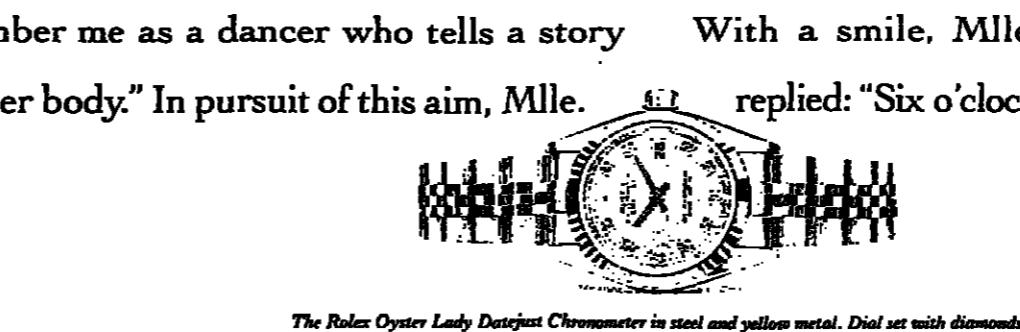
He asked the examination

board to remark the paper. It admitted a mistake and awarded him the starred-A this week, allowing Mr Waterson to collect £100 from William Hill.

Tony, a pupil of King Edward's School at Edgbaston, Birmingham, is now studying for A levels in English, history and French. He said: "My parents put on the bet in April as an incentive to make me work harder. But when my results came through I was really shocked.

"Of all the exams I was

expecting an A-star in French. I expected one in French because it's my best subject. I'd heard about people de-



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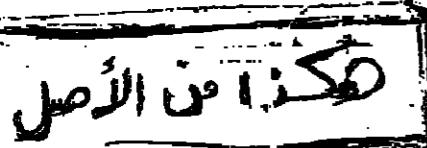
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Students threaten to quit Belfast if violence escalates

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



STUDENTS at The Queen's University of Belfast said yesterday that they would abandon their studies if full-scale sectarian violence returned to Northern Ireland. Protestant and Roman Catholic undergraduates, who together condemned the resumption of IRA terrorism, said that the university's harmonious atmosphere would be destroyed by tit-for-tat violence.

Queen's, which has played a part in key events in Northern Ireland from the civil rights campaign of the 1960s to President Clinton's visit last year, was transformed by the IRA and loyalist ceasefires. Cross-community groups, which used to be of marginal interest, attracted wide support among students who had few friends across the divide until they arrived there. Senior members of the students' union now fear these groups may dwindle.

Students from outside Northern Ireland, who were put off studying in Belfast by the seemingly endless cycle of violence, came to the university in droves during the upbeat period after the ceasefires in 1994. Those from Britain and the Irish Republic are now thinking seriously about leaving.

A group of students from Dundalk, Co Louth, in the Irish Republic, said yesterday that they would go home if sectarian violence returned. Gareth Steen, 18, who has just started an undergraduate

said they were despondent, although they insisted that all hope was not lost.

Karen Cuddy, 22, and Sinead McNally, 20, who are both from Belfast, said that politicians should put the bombs behind them and press ahead with the search for peace. Ms McNally said: "If there are kids fighting over a ball in the playground a teacher will force them to share the ball. Why can't we treat our politicians in the same way? They have got to learn to live together in Northern Ireland."

Their despondency was echoed in the students' union building opposite the main redbrick Victorian campus of the university. Nigel O'Connor, the vice-president, said he was in a mood of "despondency, despair and depression". He said he feared for the cross-community groups at the university. "The barricades could now go up with the imminent possibility of the loyalist ceasefire breaking."

His comments were echoed by Claran Brannigan, 18, who enrolled at Queen's last year with six classmates from Dundalk. Mr Brannigan, who applied to study politics and social history at Queen's after the ceasefires, said: "Everyone's spirits have been deflated by the bomb and the troubles over the summer. It is sad because there was such a great atmosphere here during the ceasefires when everyone was so happy."

Students from Northern Ireland said they dreaded the prospect of renewed violence, although they said they would not leave the university. A Protestant and a Roman Catholic who struck up a friendship after enrolling on the university's undergraduate Spanish course last month

IRA behaves like Nazis, says Bruton

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BRUTON compared the IRA's tactics to those of the Nazis yesterday. The Irish Prime Minister also accused the paramilitaries of cynically betraying the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Condemning the IRA for Monday's double bomb attack on the British army base in Lisburn, Co Antrim, Mr Bruton said that the IRA seemed intent on using violence when it suited its political objectives. "Those are the classic tactics of the National Socialists and Fascists during the 1920s and 1930s," he told the Irish parliament.

The Prime Minister said: "The Lisburn bombing is a cynical betrayal by the IRA of the peace process. The IRA have now completed a terrible triangle. We have had the IRA

Mother is charged over baby son's death

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE daughter of a millionaire businessman attended court yesterday to face a new charge of killing her newborn son.

Emma Gifford, 21, had originally been charged with concealing the birth in April. But after spending months on police bail she was charged with infanticide during the ten-minute hearing at Horseshoe Road Magistrates' Court in central London. The new charge carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. She also still faces the original charge.

Miss Gifford, from Ashford, Kent, is the daughter of Michael Gifford, who retired as chief executive of the Rank Organisation leisure group last year.

The new charge follows the discovery of a baby's body in a freezer at a flat belonging to Miss Gifford's father in South Kensington, west London.

Miss Gifford was freed on unconditional bail until her next court appearance on November 13.

A RAPIST who cross-examined his victim in court for six days about the intimate details of her ordeal was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Rapist who interrogated his victim given life

By JOANNA BALE

A RAPIST who cross-examined his victim in court for six days about the intimate details of her ordeal was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Ralston Edwards, whose victim waived her right to anonymity to campaign for a change in the law to prevent other women going through the same experience, was found in pre-sentence reports to have no signs of mental illness.

He was told by Judge Ann Goddard, who presided over his trial in August: "You have not shown the slightest sign of remorse but I do not add one day to your sentence because you contested the charges or defended yourself."

The attack on Julia Mason, who was not in court, had blighted her life, said Judge Goddard, who imposed a minimum sentence of 12 years' imprisonment.

Edwards, 43, was found guilty of twice raping Miss Mason during a 16-hour ordeal in which she was held prisoner in his flat in Caxton, south London. He had a series of previous convictions for rape and violent assaults on women.

Miss Mason said that, during his cross-examination of her in August, Edwards was "reliving the rape moment by moment" and that it was like being raped all over again.

After the case Miss Mason's boyfriend, Billy Powers, said: "From day one, she wanted the law changed. Hopefully that will now happen speedily."



Karen Cuddy, left, and Sinead McNally made friends across the sectarian divide

Police trace cars in barracks attack

By NICHOLAS WATT

IRA terrorists planned the double car bomb attack at the Army's Northern Ireland headquarters up to four months ago, the RUC said yesterday.

A Volvo estate car used to carry the second bomb into Thiepval barracks in Lisburn, Co Antrim, was sold on June 4. Another Volvo used in the attack was bought from a garage in the Lisburn area on July 3.

Police yesterday issued a photofit of a heavily disguised man who bought a blue Volkswagen Passat last month for use as the getaway vehicle. The suspect, who is 40 and has a black beard, dark hair and black-rimmed glasses, bought the vehicle at a car auction on the outskirts of Belfast on September 23, exactly two weeks before the attack. Police recovered the burnt-out vehicle at Poleglass, near Lisburn, within hours of the explosions on Monday.

As police released details of the IRA attack, four lower-sixth pupils whose playing fields were showered with shrapnel called on the IRA to end its campaign. The teenagers, who were at Wallace High School when the explo-



Suspect who bought Lisburn getaway car

sions happened, described the bombs as "blasts from the past". Their statement said: "We have been described as tomorrow's generation. But by tomorrow our thirst for peace could be sacrificed by the relentless pursuit of political ends by a violent minority in our community."

The pupils said that younger children were on the fields as the bombs exploded. "Bombs do not discriminate. The pupils on the playing fields were of all creeds and colours. Bombs do not ask questions. They silence them. If you feel as we do, do not be silenced, stand up and be counted."

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Official figures on family spending show richest 20 per cent earn ten times as much as poorest

F Nanny and a third car are signs of top earners

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A NANNY, a third family car and a well-stocked wine cellar are the status symbols of Britain's highest earners, according to the Government's survey on family spending.

Although the poverty gap has narrowed slightly in the past two years, the wealthiest 20 per cent of homes still enjoy ten times as much weekly income as the poorest 20 per cent - £875 compared with £84.

The best clue to a family's wealth today is how often they can afford to dine out. The richest, those whose income is at least £759 a week, spend £1,100 a year on meals in restaurants and cafés, almost three times the national average. The poorest, those who live on less than £82 a week, spend £1.40 a week eating out.

The richest 10 per cent of families spend an average of £730 a year on women's clothing, £550 on men's clothing, £330 on televisions, videos, computers and audio equipment, £1,100 on foreign holidays and £880 on cash gifts and donations.

They still choose to spend their money on the traditional symbols of privilege, spending six times as much on education as the average family and four times as much on medical insurance. One of the

richest signs of a very high income is a nanny or au pair. The richest Britons spend four times as much on domestic help and childcare as the rest of the population.

Only 25 per cent of the richest households manage with one car, 55 per cent have two and 18 per cent insist on having three. Yet a third of all British families have no car at all. The very rich spend an average of £390 a year on wines, more than three times as much as the rest of the population.

The wealthiest families were spending up to £800 a week on child care and domestic help.

Although their income is less than £82 a week, they spend £88 and look doomed to be in debt.

The richest families, however, were spending £620 a week. In most parts of the country, the average family spent £290 a week, a rise of £6 or 2 per cent from last year. Only in the South East did people spend much more, typically £322. Average weekly income rose by 3.2 per cent to £881.

The poorest households tend to consist of one adult with an average age of 58, renting their home from the local authority: typically a redundant, separated man or woman in a council flat.

receives 82 per cent of its income from social security.

The annual Family Expenditure Survey questioned 6,800 households. The results help to form the weekly basket of goods used to compile the inflation figures. Food remained the biggest expense, with the average weekly bill rising by 5 per cent to £53, followed by housing which rose by 4 per cent to £48.

One of the biggest spending increases was on personal services including jewellery, cosmetics and medicines. Families now spend £12 a week, a rise of 7 per cent.

There were striking regional differences, with the Northern Irish spending most on bread, tobacco and women's clothing but the lowest on alcohol. Families in the North of England spent the most on meat pies. Shoppers were already buying less beef before the Health Secretary's admission that there could be a link between "mad cow" disease and its human equivalent. In the last quarter of 1995, households were spending £1.52 on beef compared with £1.89 a year earlier.

□ Family Spending (Stationery Office, £3.95).

Nanny state, page 17



Former nannies Samantha Franey, left, and Gabriella Vianello warn their staff against over-amorous fathers

From Mary Poppins to status symbol

BY BILL FROST

SHARPLY aware of her enhanced social standing as late 20th-century status symbol, today's top-drawer nanny expects a package of terms and conditions that Mary Poppins would never recognise.

A £13,000 tax-paid salary

apart, she demands her own flat with private telephone line if living with her employers, sole use of a car and a mobile telephone. Taking out the rubbish is not among her duties, nor is submitting to any sexual demands made by the man of the house. She does not suffer fools gladly

either. Too much advice on bringing up the children from their mother is likely to end with a walkout and a blacklisting of the nanny.

Samantha Franey, co-director of the Dulwich Nanny Agency in southeast London, said that one of the most common problems encountered by her young women was the over-amorous father:

"I am afraid it is not at all unusual. You know the sort of things... secret love letters and flowers. As a former nanny myself I know what happens and it is all very awkward. Recently one of our girls had to do a moonlight fit. She was working for a single father who had become very fond of her. He is blacklisted now, of course."

Tired of taking orders, Ms Franey, 29, set up the agency with Gabriella Vianello, another former nanny, 22, years ago. They have 6,000 young women on their books and as many again employed here and abroad.

"It is a very attractive package for a young woman," Ms Vianello, 28, said. "The salary — anything up to £13,000 a year — is tax-free. In the case of domestic staff the Inland Revenue expects the employer to pay tax and the National Insurance contributions."

The agency's clients include

barristers, solicitors, diplomats and captains of industry. "Life is good in the lap of luxury. However, the rich can treat a nanny like a piece of furniture and not, as it should be, one of the family. They are so engrossed in their work that they just expect everything to be done. They fail to realise that for people in their position a nanny is not just a status symbol but a necessity."

The young women are handpicked and must satisfy a lengthy checklist. All must hold qualifications in childcare, be non-smokers and be ready to deal with any domestic emergency.

"Some duties are unacceptable, though," Ms Vianello said. "Rich people are far more likely to take advantage of nannies than the middle classes." Apart from taking out the rubbish, "working overtime is not acceptable when the nanny is not paid for it. We have had to let employers go for that."

Ms Vianello and Ms Franey both agree that today's nanny will not stay in the job too long if she has any ambition. "The life may be attractive to young women but they will get sick and tired of being given orders on bringing up children by someone who knows far less than they do about the subject."

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Ulster pubs to open all day on Sunday

BY A STAFF REPORTER

PROPOSALS bringing Northern Ireland's licensing laws in line with those of Britain were announced by the Government yesterday.

All-day opening on Sunday and longer opening hours for off-licences are among changes proposed by Malcolm Moss, the Northern Ireland Office Minister.

Pubs in the Province are currently limited to two sessions on Sunday with a break in between. Off-licences must shut at 9pm during the week and are not allowed to open on Sundays. As well as longer opening hours, children will be allowed into pubs provided they are with an adult.

Premises allowed to serve alcohol will be extended to include guest houses and conference centres. The ban on restaurants having a bar will also be lifted.

The proposals were announced after a two-month consultation period during which more than 700 responses were received from members of the public and licensees. Announcing the outcome, Mr Moss said that he had agreed to abandon a draft proposal for a system of penalty points to deal with clubs that breached licensing laws. He hoped that the proposals would come before Parliament "in the near future".

Quarter of Britons' wine 'comes from Calais'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than a quarter of wine drunk in this country is bought in Calais and one in eight bottles of spirits is purchased by cross-border shoppers, according to a survey by the drinks industry.

The figures were criticised, however, by Customs and Excise, which said that the survey by the Wines and Spirits Association had been based on a single day. Customs' figures, based on interviews with 48,000 drivers at ports this summer, suggested that about one in eight bottles of wine and one in 13 of spirits are bought abroad.

Customs said that the annual loss to the taxpayer is about £60 million on spirits, £110 million on wine and £40 million on beer. The association said that the figures represented a loss of £145.36 per car for the Exchequer. It calculated the total shortfall, including other ferry routes but excluding beer and the Channel Tunnel, at £573.1 million, about 10 per cent of the Exchequer's total income from excise duty on drink.

The survey said that the number of vehicles arriving at Dover without alcohol is one in 50, compared with one in five last year. The association is pressing the Government for a gradual reduction in duty to bring the United Kingdom into line with France.

Poster 'dehumanising'

POSTERS promoting a new Harvey Nichols store in Leeds have been criticised by the city council as being degrading to women (Carol Midgley writes).

The posters show the models Jodi Kidd and Susie Bick wearing a collar and dog lead alongside the slogan "Harvey Nichols Leeds (not follows)". Doreen Lewis, deputy chairwoman of the council's women's committee, who

has asked the council to complain to the Advertising Standards Authority, said that the image suggested women needed to be kept under control. "It's not simply degrading, it's dehumanising."

A spokeswoman for the store said the dog leads were simply a pun on the city's name. "We would never be involved in anything getting out to degrade women."

Tories given the common touch in revamp of Prime Minister's 1992 soap-box campaign

Major to consider sale of Tube and Royal Mail.

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Prime Minister said yesterday that he was considering privatising the London Underground and the Royal Mail.

On the day of the Dunblane memorial service, John Major also promised a "clear-cut and firm decision" on the ownership of handguns after Lord Cullen inquiry's into the massacre had reported. The disclosures came during an unprecedented 75-minute question-and-answer session held by the Prime Minister with 3,000 Tories at their party conference.

As the Prime Minister stood on the stage with his party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, ladies in fuchsia pink jackets shepherded activists to microphones. Mr Major had decided at the last minute not to sit on a stool but to stand by the podium. Behind him the stage was flooded in pink light. The Prime Minister and Mr Mawhinney soon took off their jackets. The session was meant to repeat the success of Mr Major's soap-box style in the 1992 election campaign.

The questioners had not, party aides promised, been planted. They were different from the polished parliamentary candidates who trod up to the party conference platform in debates to proclaim undying love for the leader. They were mostly middle-aged women who devote their weekends to constituency work. They may have asked tricky questions but the atmosphere was cosy rather than combative.

The first questioner urged Mr Major to consider privatising the London Underground and Royal Mail, after this summer's strikes. Mr Major said: "We are looking to make the Post Office more efficient. Whether that means full-scale privatisation or introducing more private capital has still to be determined." He agreed to consider if the principle of privatisation could also be applied to the London Underground, saying it had been a great success on the railways.

A nurse, "Conservative, black and British and proud of all three," urged the Prime Minister to show ethnic minorities that it was worth while voting Conservative. Mr Major emphasised that he wanted more people from ethnic minorities to realise they were "welcome in my Conservative Party" and to stand for elected office or become peers. "They have the same rights as every other



Shirt sleeves and showmanship: John Major and Brian Mawhinney holding court before the party conference at Bournemouth yesterday

British citizen. And in me they have a Prime Minister that will stand up for them."

"Equality of people in this country, equality of opportunity and choice, whether people are black or white or brown ... the most instinctive part of the core of what I believe in politics," he said.

Told that working Tories wanted to pay less tax, Mr Major quipped: "Hands up, those who think I'm going to tell you what's in the Budget. I can tell you that we Tories are

paid tribute to Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, who had done "more to draw down unreasonable dependency on the state than anybody for a very long time". Mr Lilley's speech and his own later in the week would scare off the scroungers.

Told that working Tories wanted to pay less tax, Mr Major quipped: "Hands up, those who think I'm going to tell you what's in the Budget. I can tell you that we Tories are

by instinct tax-cutters."

Another questioner wanted to know why criminals sentenced to life imprisonment did not then spend the rest of their lives behind bars. Mr Major praised his Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for being "the toughest man on crime". Mr Major recalled that, when he had been in his late teens, his flat had been burgled. It must be "so much worse" for older people who had perhaps had irreplaceable

memories stolen and whose homes had been violated. Legislation would be introduced next month for tougher sentences for those who repeatedly committed burglary.

Only a couple of questioners touched on the most contentious issue of the conference: the European single currency. None mentioned "stealze".

Mr Major said he could earn "easy applause" from many by immediately ruling out Britain's membership of a

single currency. But he added, with a smile, "if I did that, and I then had no British voice in this great debate that will affect us, what will I say to the British nation when they say to me 'Prime Minister, how can you protect or advance our

British position if you have unilaterally ruled yourself out of the discussions upon something that will affect us and affect the whole of Europe?"

To sustained applause, he promised that if a future Tory

cabinet decided it wanted to enter a single currency, there would be a referendum on whether to go ahead.

A questioner challenged Mr Major, as a "compassionate parent", to condemn the private ownership of handguns, saying "Surely the right of a child to live is more important than the right of a man to hold a gun". The Prime Minister insisted he could not comment until the Cullen's report was published.

Mr Major was urged to get the message across to voters that while the Tories would unite the United Kingdom Labour would tear it apart. He replied to loud applause: "It would be easy if this party stopped conducting an internal debate with itself and began conducting a debate with the electorate and the Labour Party."

Mr Major's "fireside" jokes included one of his favourite anecdotes, about the time President Yeltsin came to stay in track-suit and trainers. Mr Yeltsin's security man banged on the locked door of a pub near Chequers, shouting "It's the President of Russia". A disembodied voice inside replied: "And I'm the Kaiser."

Peter Stothard, page 20

Fresh element in an otherwise bland, traditional structure

Party conferences will never be the same again after John Major's 75-minute tour de force yesterday. The format of the question-and-answer session suited his particular skills and personality. Mr Major is always better in informal exchanges than in delivering formal set-piece speeches. But the success of the session also underlined how party conferences have changed, and are changing.

This year's conference guide includes black-and-white photographs of times past — the conferences in Blackpool in 1954 and Bournemouth in 1955. As the guide points out, "40 years ago everyone appeared to be sitting on the platform", rather like a middle-

aged choral society. There was no hint of stage design or the elaborate sets in which the party managers take such pride. These appeared in the mid-1980s as Labour revamped its image and Harvey Thomas applied his presentational skills to the Tories. The transformation has continued in stages since then: the sets have got ever bigger, the back projection screens larger, and the music louder.

But the structure of Tory conferences has otherwise changed little. Bland motions have been chosen for debate. These have essentially been opportunities for ministers to make announcements and to play to the crowd. The votes at the end have been irrelevant. Only rarely

has controversy surfaced on the conference floor: for instance, during the 1992 debates on Europe and the economy. The main arguments have been on the fringe. That does not mean that the conference is irrelevant. Not only are ministers keen to enhance their reputations, but they want to deal with anticipated or actual grassroots discontent. That is why the Treasury dreads party conferences. They normally result in additions to public spending, though seldom on the scale of the promise to build 300,000 houses that Harold Macmillan was forced

to concede in response to conference pressure in 1950.

Nonetheless, conferences have risked appearing bland. Tory officials who visited the Republican convention at San Diego in August were struck by the success of the informal Oprah Winfrey-style walkabout by Liddy Dule. But while their main motives have been to inject variety into the format and to draw attention back to the conference hall from the fringe, the questions to Mr Major, though not fixed beforehand, were hardly testing, but the result underlined the carefully cultivated mood of harmony this week.

One incidental result of similar sessions with Stephen Dorrell and John Gummer, is to

involve far more grassroots Tory members. Up to 20 made points, compared with often just half a dozen speakers in debates. In a pre-election year, the conference is mainly used to showcase parliamentary candidates. Labour and the Liberal Democrats did the same. Such question-and-answer sessions have to be used sparingly.

They are not the right format for making detailed announcements, as Michael Howard and Peter Lilley did, or for authoritative policy statements, as Malcolm Rifkind made in the best speech of the conference so far. Mr Major will still be delivering the usual end-of-conference speech.

The other parties face parallel

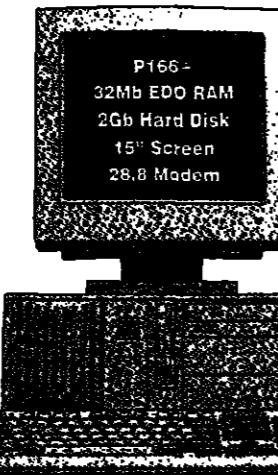
dilemmas. Labour has for long highlighted its frontbench spokesmen at the expense of trade union time-servers on the national executive. But as its annual conference has become more predictable, endorsing leadership-initiated policies, there will be pressure for similar innovations. Tony Blair has done well when questioned by Labour members round the country last year on the rewriting of Clause Four and, more recently, over the party's pre-manifesto. Perhaps, the party leaders should take a risk and allow themselves to be questioned by ordinary voters during the election campaign.

PETER RIDDELL

Peter Stothard, page 20

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Election campaign thwarts plans for new laws

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGISLATION for national identity cards and plans to help the elderly with nursing-home fees have been scrapped for this Parliament.

John Major has decided to strip the legislative programme for the next six months of contentious or costly new laws. This month's Queen's Speech will be confined instead to a handful of populist Bills that will add little to public spending and should easily get through the Commons in six months.

Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, has been worried that a busy legislative session would keep Tory MPs at Westminster when they should be campaigning for the general election. He also argues that there would not be enough legislative time to get through more than about four or five main Bills. These are likely to include plans by Peter Lilley to combat benefit fraud, Michael Howard's proposals for tougher sentences and Gillian Shephard's plans to extend selection in grant-maintained schools and to toughen discipline in schools.

Among those that may now be dropped are a Bill to reform primary healthcare so that GPs do more minor operations; and Mr Howard's Bill to provide for a crime squad to tackle organised crime.

Plans to privatise Channel 4 may also not reach the statute book before the general election and a proposed Bill on competition is still in the balance. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, confirmed yesterday that new laws on strikes would not be introduced this autumn.

A Bill on tightening gun control is likely to go ahead after publication of the Cullen inquiry.

Mr Howard was to have introduced four Bills this autumn but party sources confirmed yesterday that the planned Bill on identity cards will not go ahead because the legislation is too complex. He had hoped to bring in a voluntary card based on the photocard driving licence which will come into use next year.

A Bill to help elderly people to pay their nursing-home fees is also likely to be scrapped until after the general election on the ground of cost and because the legislation is too complicated. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, published a paper earlier this year with details of a partnership plan between the Government and the insurance industry.

Unions face writs from public over 'damaging' strikes

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of strikes in monopolistic public services such as railways, hospitals and schools, will be able to sue if trains are delayed because of industrial action or only if no trains run at all. They want to avoid millions of rail commuters issuing writs every time there is disruption.

The unions could face bankruptcy. They will have to think very hard before they order the next strike in the London Underground because they could be sued for thousands of pounds of damages," one senior Tory said last night. He added: "The point is, we hope that this move will deter the strike in the first place."

Mr Lang, in his conference speech, said: "Trade unions will have to answer to the public when they call damaging strikes in public services." A senior Tory said: "This goes one step further than the heart of the legislation - if a strike's effects are disproportionately damaging to the public then the union which organises the strike will risk losing its immunity and be sued for damages."

Legislation will not be prepared before the end of the Parliament. The proposals will form a cornerstone of the Tory election manifesto. Officials will have to establish

that allow viewers access to the Rendezvous channel broadcast from France.

About 20,000 viewers have already bought an annual subscription to the channel but today's announcement will lead to its losing its British audience within a year. A separate ban on British firms advertising on the channel is aimed at cutting off the company's financial lifeline.

Ministers have faced legal difficulties in preventing overseas companies transmitting pornographic programmes to Britain, but John Major indicated yesterday that he wants tougher action to reduce obscenity. Today's announcement is to be followed by further measures to deter foreign companies broadcasting pornography here.

Mrs Bottomley will also announce a drive to persuade employers to release staff to work with voluntary groups in the community.

BOTTOMLEY: sale ban on satellite "smart cards"

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Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, taking a leisurely approach to preparations for his speech today

Agencies to help jobless lone parents

By JILL SHERMAN

PRIVATE job agencies are to be given financial incentives to find work for up to 100,000 single mothers as part of a package announced by Peter Lilley yesterday.

In his conference speech, which included new laws to combat fraud, the Social Security Secretary said that £20 million would be invested in the Parent Plus scheme to encourage single mothers to get work.

Mr Lilley mixed the news of his proposals with a muted swipe at Brussels, a plea for unity and some well-honed jokes. But his decision to cut out his

rabble-rousing anti-European rhetoric of previous years earned him a less enthusiastic reception than usual.

Twelve pilot schemes modelled on the American system Gain are to be set up next year. In four areas private firms will be invited to tender for schemes. In the eight other areas single parents will be offered help from a benefit agency or employment service caseworker. The caseworker will advise on CVs, how to dress, and how to approach interviews. In four other pilot schemes parents will be given help with child care costs while they look for work.

Officials indicated that the involvement of the private sector marked a trend that could be extended much more widely. Mr Lilley also announced that a Bill would be included in the Queen's Speech to combat benefit fraud, under which the Social Security Department will be able to check Inland Revenue records against benefit agency records.

Mr Lilley said that he intended to set up a fraud inspectorate to investigate councils that were not taking housing benefit fraud seriously, and force them to take action.

In addition legislation will be introduced to reform the compensation recovery scheme, to allow accident victims to keep all of any damages awarded for pain and suffering.

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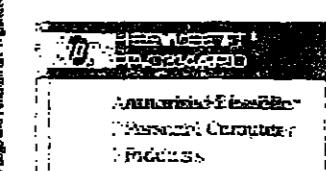
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Former Ulster officer claims he was victim of dirty tricks when he threatened to expose MI5 secrets

'SAS man' cleared of killing after 16-year campaign

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SIXTEEN-YEAR campaign to clear his name by a man claiming to have been an SAS officer ended in victory yesterday when his conviction for manslaughter was quashed by the Lord Chief Justice.

Colin Wallace, 53, has consistently claimed that he was the victim of a dirty tricks campaign by MI5 to stop him from making allegations about security service operations in Northern Ireland.

In a 26-page judgment read in the Court of Appeal by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Mr Wallace's conviction for killing his friend Jonathan Lewis in 1980 was dismissed as unsafe. His lawyers said later that he would pursue a claim for compensation but Ann Curran, QC, for the Crown, announced that the prosecution would seek a retrial.

Although officially employed as a senior army information officer at Lisburn in Ulster before being dismissed in 1975, Mr Wallace claims that he once worked as an intelligence officer with the job of spreading confusion among terrorists.

He maintains that he be-

came involved with MI5 officers in operation Clockwork Orange, which was allegedly aimed at removing Harold Wilson from office as Prime Minister. Mr Wallace said he became the target of covert operations to discredit him because of his threat to expose undercover work, forgery and homosexual blackmail of public figures in Ulster by British intelligence.

He was dismissed for allegedly leaking a restricted document to a journalist but in 1990 received compensation of £30,000 after an inquiry by David Calcutt, QC, into the Defence Ministry's handling of his dismissal.

He was released from prison in 1986 after serving more than six years of a ten-year sentence imposed at Lewes Crown Court for the manslaughter of Mr Lewis, 29, an antiques dealer.

At the time of the killing, Mr Wallace was working for Arun District Council, Sussex, as an information officer, assisted by Mr Lewis's wife, Jane. They formed "a relationship which was amorous but not adulterous", the judge said.

Mr Wallace, a married man now working as a management consultant, said outside court that he believed Mr Lewis was killed by criminal members of the antiques trade in Brighton but that police had suppressed the evidence. He called for a police investigation into events surrounding the killing, including the handling of evidence.

At his trial, the prosecution alleged that Mr Wallace had knocked out Mr Lewis at his home in Arundel, West Sussex, and dumped him in the

Jane Lewis formed an "amorous relationship"



Colin Wallace outside the Court of Appeal after his victory yesterday. He will seek compensation for six years spent in prison for manslaughter

Arun, where he drowned. Dr Arun, where he drowned. Dr pathologists had told the jury that the victim had "probably been hit by karate blow" to the nose. But at the appeal court hearing in July, two other pathologists said that such a powerful blow would have caused damage to nasal bones, bleeding, swelling and bruising. There was no evidence of this.

Professor Keith Mant, whose report was not produced at the original trial,

concluded that Mr Lewis must have been dumped in the river shortly after the blow. The Crown had said there was a two-hour gap between the blow and the drowning. Mr Wallace said the allegation of a karate blow had been manufactured to link the killing to his army background.

Lord Bingham, giving the appeal judges ruling, said: "Had the case as it now appears been put before the court in February 1982 when an application for leave to

appeal against conviction was dismissed we have no doubt that leave would have been granted, the appeal allowed and a new trial ordered."

Lord Bingham said that before the trial it had been agreed between the Crown and the defence that Mr Wallace's SAS history should not be given to the jury. But newspapers published pictures of Mr Wallace in uniform. He told the court that he had not been trained in unarmed combat but the jury

could have believed him, Lord Bingham said.

Despite references in the judgement to Mr Wallace's SAS service, Defence Ministry sources have denied that he was ever a member.

The judgment said that Mr Wallace and Mr Lewis had met before a surprise party for Mrs Lewis on August 5, 1980. Mr Wallace told her and other guests that Mr Lewis would be late. He was not seen alive again.

At first Mr Wallace did not

tell Mrs Lewis or the police about the meeting with her husband, but later admitted it and said that Mr Lewis had confronted him about his relationship with his wife. Lord Bingham said the Crown relied heavily at the trial on Mr Wallace's lies. But it was possible, he said, that Mr Wallace had wanted to conceal the subject of the conversation and that, from that moment, he found himself drawn into an "ever-increasing spiral of deception".

At first Mr Wallace did not

Racist banter costs newspaper £13,000

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN was told at a job interview with a local newspaper that being called a "black bastard" was typical office banter. Claudia Baptiste, 28, who is black, applied for two jobs in advertising sales at the *Telegraph* and *Argus* in Bradford but was not appointed, despite being described as an excellent candidate.

An industrial tribunal in Leeds awarded her £13,000 after ruling that she had been the victim of racist remarks. The tribunal was told that Miss Baptiste, of Bradford, was told at one interview that it was essential in the job to have a sense of humour. Jane Holt, the advertising manager, told her that she had called a member of staff a "black bastard" and he had called her a "white honky".

Miss Baptiste will also receive a written apology from the newspaper, which has agreed to bring in new guidelines on race discrimination and employment procedures, and to ensure that staff have

extra training. After the decision, Miss Baptiste said she was pleased that an agreement had been reached, but added that money was no compensation.

"The written apology is far more important to me and the fact that I can finally get on with my life," she said. "I want to tell anyone who has suffered from race discrimination to come forward. No one should have to accept it."

Courtney Hey, of the Northern Complaints Aid Fund, said that the case should never have gone to a tribunal. "It was clear to the newspaper from a very early stage that they had committed unlawful discrimination. For them to try to defend making racial statements to Miss Baptiste was unacceptable."

Tim Blott, managing director of Bradford and District Newspapers, said that the manager concerned had been disciplined. "We have an equal opportunities policy and don't condone discrimination in any shape or form."

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Islanders on Espiritu Santo, where a gene can protect against death from malaria

Pacific islanders' genes hold key to better malaria vaccine

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A DISCOVERY made by British scientists on an island in the Pacific Ocean could lead to a new approach for vaccinating against malaria.

A team from the Institute of Molecular Medicine at Oxford has shown why children who carry a particular gene are protected against dying from malaria. The conclusion is that the gene makes the children more susceptible to a minor form of the disease, and that that may help to protect them against the more serious variety.

Dr Tom Williams and his wife, Dr Kathryn Maitland, spent three years on the island of Espiritu Santo, in Vanuatu, gathering the data. Together with colleagues they report today in *Nature* that children who carry the gene for a blood abnormality are much more likely to get malaria, but less likely to die of it.

The gene is the one responsible for a form of anaemia called alpha thalassaemia. There has long been evidence that people carrying the gene are less likely to contract malaria and that is believed to be why the thalassaemia gene



Dr Kathryn Maitland and Dr Tom Williams spent three years on Espiritu Santo

has survived in malaria-prone populations.

Dr Williams said he was surprised to find that the version of the gene they studied did not appear to protect at all. Children carrying two copies of it were more, not less, likely to get malaria. Evidence from other countries that the gene protects

against malaria is strong. There were two ways of explaining the results, he said. One was that contracting malaria when young improved the chances of surviving it later; the other was that getting the milder form, called *Plasmodium vivax*, reduced the severity of subsequent attacks of the lethal form,

Plasmodium falciparum. Dr Williams said: "The second of these is the more exciting, because it suggests that a new vaccine for malaria might be based on *Plasmodium vivax*. It has always been argued that *vivax* doesn't protect against *falciparum*, but we speculate that it may make the disease less dangerous."

Teacher died after Burma holiday

A CORONER in Hong Kong recorded a verdict of death by natural causes yesterday on a British teacher who died from malaria in February.

Simon Davies, 34, gave a positive test for malaria at one hospital, but the finding was not passed to the hospital to

which he was later transferred. When Mr Davies eventually received treatment for a fast-spreading form of the disease it was too late, the coroner was told.

Mr Davies, who taught English at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, had suffered

flu-like symptoms two weeks after a holiday in Burma. On his return he visited Queen Mary Hospital in Hong Kong, but was sent home with paracetamol. He was later flown to another hospital and then transferred to a third, where he died on February 10.

Smoking increases risk of blindness*

By JEREMY LAURANCE

SMOKING can cause blindness, scientists have found. They discovered that smokers face an increased risk of macular degeneration, a condition in which the cell layer behind the retina begins to rot.

Those who smoke more than 20 cigarettes a day have twice the risk of developing the condition, which is the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly.

A study of 32,000 nurses aged between 50 and 59 in 1980, by a team from the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, found that over the following 12 years those who smoked more than 25 cigarettes a day had almost 2½ times the risk of developing macular degeneration.

Giving up smoking, even 15 years earlier, did not reduce the risk. A second study of 21,000 male doctors conducted at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, and Harvard Medical School reported similar findings.

The studies are reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Stores lose fight over 'superbean' labelling

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SUPERMARKETS have lost their fight to be able to warn customers which foods are made from genetically altered soya bean products. The retailers conceded defeat yesterday in a year-long battle to have the foods, which will be on the shelves from next month, clearly labelled to give consumers a choice.

The move could open the floodgates to a string of genetically altered crops, including maize, sugar beet, wheat and potatoes. Soya can be found in 60 per cent of supermarket food products, and thousands of tonnes of the herbicide-resistant strain are currently being processed into everything from chocolate to mayonnaise, dressings, cooking oils, pasta, breakfast cereals, sausages, milk drinks, ready meals and desserts.

Sainsbury's, one of the companies that has been pressing for clear labelling, confirmed yesterday that consumers will have no idea whether the ready meal or baby food they buy contains the "superbeans". "We have had to concede. There will be no labelling. We are very disappointed," a spokesman said.

Most of the big chains said yesterday that they would be putting leaflets into stores to explain to their customers what was happening.

The beans, developed by the American company Monsanto, have been altered by use of a gene from a bacterium to be resistant to its herbicides, which are made from glyphosate. The company, whose gene-altered crop is being harvested this month, claims it is impossible to segregate the new beans from natural ones.

Martin Henderson of the Co-operative chain, which refused to stock a paste made from genetically altered tom-

atoes, said that it was powerless to control the arrival of the superbeans in the food chain. "When you have literally hundreds of own-brand products made from soya and manufactured in Britain, Europe and the world, then knowing where the beans come from is impossible. Everyone is in the same boat."

About 2 per cent of this year's 66 million tonne American crop, where beans for British foods come from, is from gene-altered seeds. The percentage will increase in coming years. Retailers said that they would step up pressure on Monsanto to segregate beans from next year.

Julie Sheppard, of Genetic Forum, a group that monitors developments in genetically altered food, said yesterday that the arrival of the beans, unlabelled, in British food flew in the face of consumer wishes. "An opinion poll by the Food and Drink Federation last year found that 93 per cent of consumers wanted any food which contains genetically engineered ingredients to be clearly labelled," she said.

Monsanto has been given European Union approval to ship the beans to Britain and the Continent. Ministry of Agriculture scientists claim that processing leaves no trace of the bacterial gene or its byproducts. Critics claim the beans are being rushed into products before all safety concerns have been properly resolved and are worried that other gene-altered crops will find their way into foods unlabelled.

Janet Nunn, director of food and drink at the British Retail Consortium, said that unless segregation of the crop could be guaranteed, retailers should develop new sources of conventional soya beans or use soya alternatives.

Love's labours exact the highest price

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

The amorous fruit fly

COURTING fruit flies just don't know when to stop. The constant beating of wings as they make their courtship song wears them out and they die young.

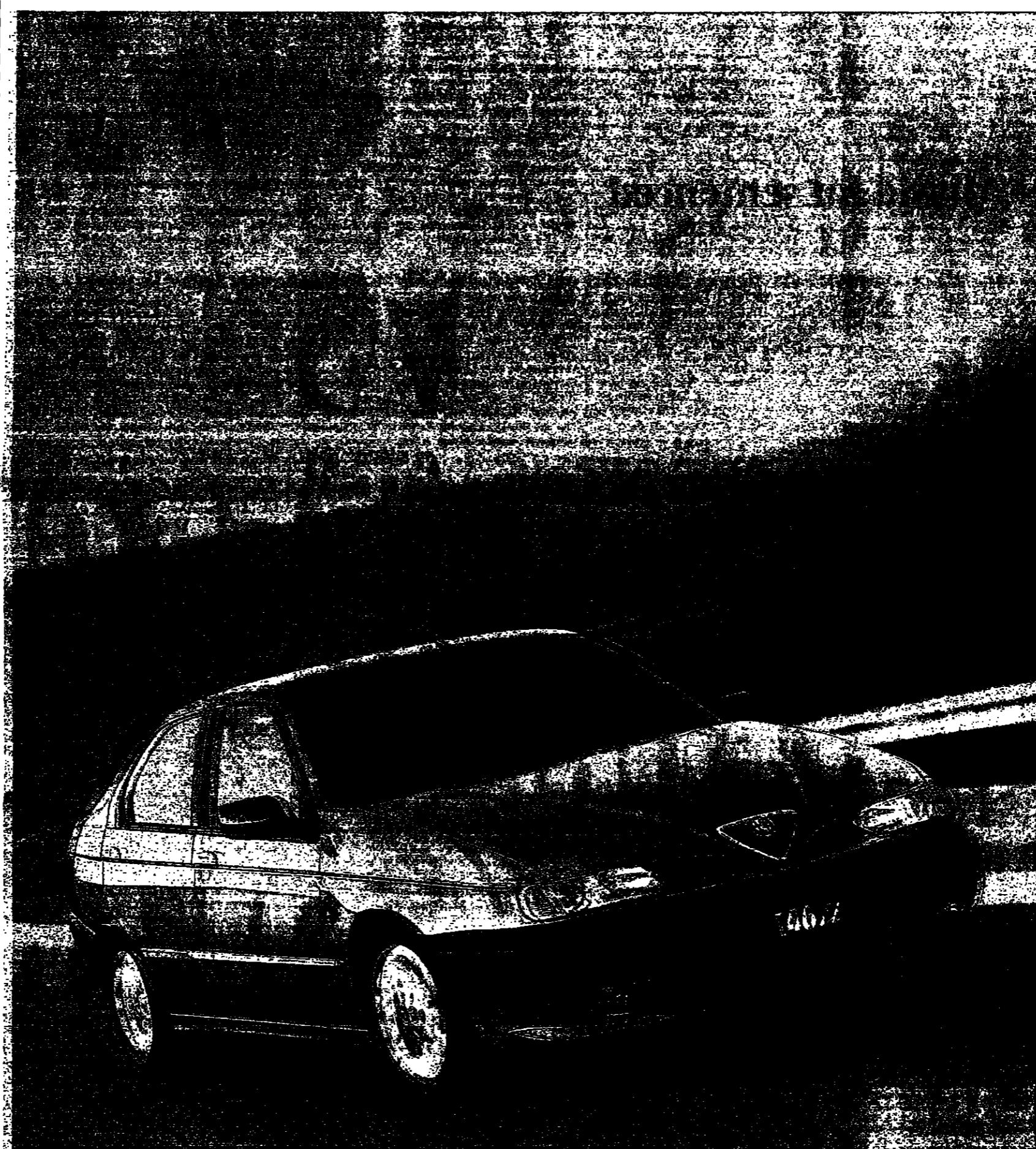
Biologists have known for a while that sex cuts life expectancy in fruit flies. But the latest research shows that it is not so much the sex as the effort to get it that does the damage.

Dr Linda Partridge, of University College London, and Dr Rudiger Cordts, of Ruhr University, have teased out this fact in an ingenious experiment reported in *New Scientist*. They used mutant males, unable to produce sperm, and females with damaged reproductive tracts which meant they could not mate. They compared their

behaviour and lifespan with ordinary males and females.

At best, the life of a fruit fly is little more than a month. Males kept in vials with other males, who made no attempt to mate, lived the longest. But all the males who courted females died more than a week earlier.

It made no difference whether they had actually succeeded in mating: flies who had sex lived just as long as those who had rushed around wooing females that were unable to mate.



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War fears grow as South Koreans are found murdered

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SEOUL

TENSIONS on the Korean peninsula have risen to the highest level since the end of the Korean War after three peasants were murdered in the South in an area where three North Koreans are on the run.

The Government has been talking of severe retaliation against the North ever since a North Korean hit-squad came ashore from a broken-down submarine last month.

Only three from the original team remain free. Twenty-two were killed — 11 by their commanders — and one officer is in captivity. A taxi-driver who spotted the submarine has been given a free trip to the United States by an admirer.

The pressure on President Kim Young Sam is now likely to become almost irresistible after two men and an elderly woman were murdered while out picking mushrooms. The men were shot with M16s, which the North Korean fugitives are known to have, and the woman was bludgeoned to death.

The incident is a fresh humiliation for the Government, which had told the public that the North Koreans had either fled across the border to the North or would die of exposure. South Korea

ans have been outraged that while the North was holding a seminar on foreign investment and appealing to the world for rice to feed its starving peasants, a senior North Korean general was entertaining the hit-squad to a banquet before they set off to kill the South Korean leader at a national sports day in the east coast area where the team landed.

Maps of the area, South Korean army uniforms, M16 rifles and hand grenades were found on board the North Korean submarine.

President Kim has rallied the opposition and given a warning that any incident might lead to a "limited war" on the peninsula.

He has threatened to withdraw from a key programme — which has kept the lid on a cauldron of hatred for several years — to build a light-water nuclear reactor in North Korea so that the most hard-line communist Government in the world will not develop nuclear weapons and turn a crisis into a regional disaster.

A clear South Korean-American rift is obvious from the amount of publicity being given by the Kim Government to the arrest of a man in the United States who was allegedly spying for Seoul in Washington.

Chinese dissident sentenced

BY JAMES PRINGLE

A PROMINENT Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo, was ordered to serve three years in a labour camp just hours after the police detained him at his home on Tuesday; his relatives said yesterday. They added that no reason had been given by the authorities for his detention.

Mr Liu, who is in his thirties, is an author, critic and former university lecturer. He

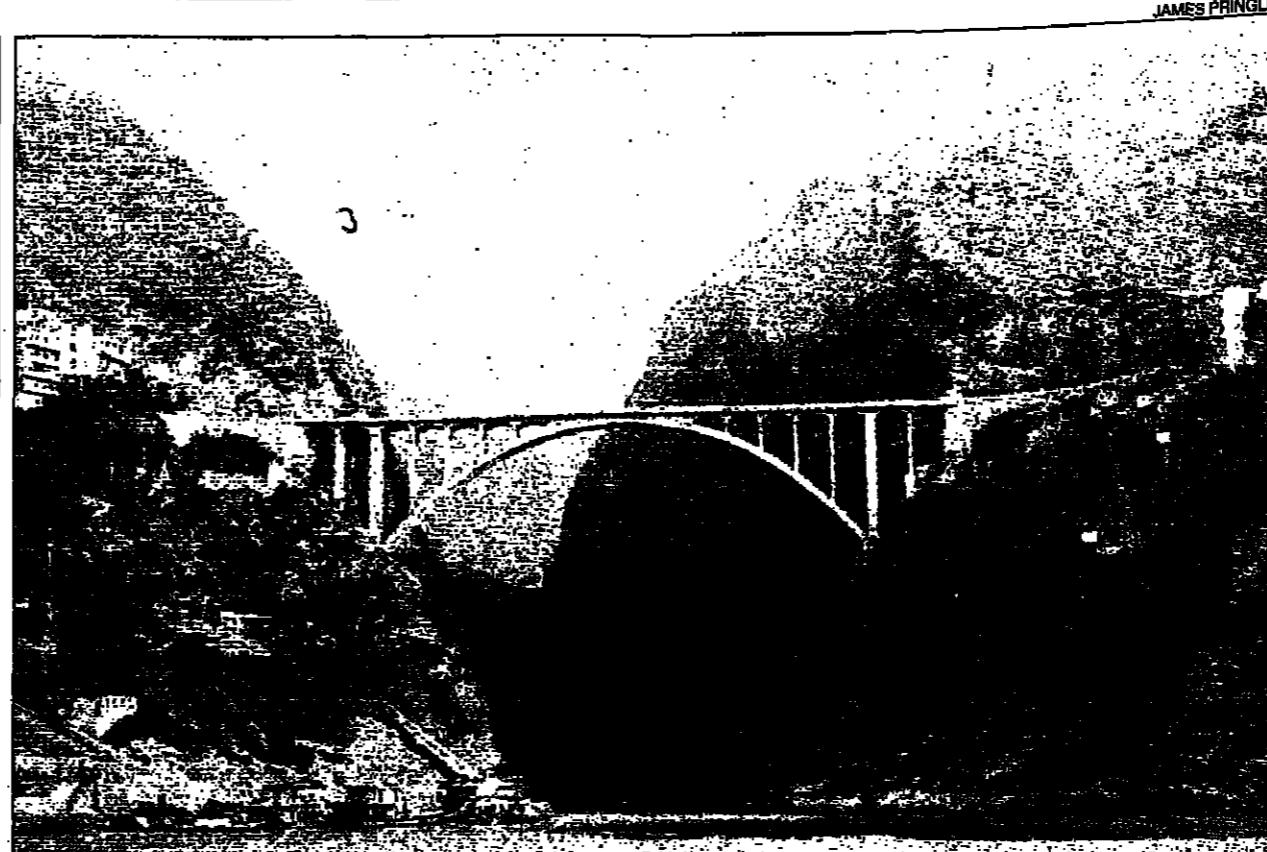
came to prominence during the pro-democracy protests of 1989 and he played a leading role in the Tiananmen demonstrations which were bloodily suppressed. For that, Mr Liu spent a year and a half in detention.

Last month, Mr Liu and another dissident, Wang Xizhe, wrote an open letter calling for freedom of speech in the press in China. It also criticised President Jiang Zemin and attacked govern-

ment policies in Tibet. Mr Liu's detention was almost certainly connected with this.

Mr Wang could not be reached at home in the southern city of Canton and sources said he did not return there on Tuesday, raising the possibility that he had also been detained.

Chinese police officers have the power, at their own discretion, to send people to what is called "re-education through labour".



Dragon Gate Bridge, 360ft above the Daning river, will skim the surface of the reservoir when the valley is flooded

Weary peasants plan dam escape

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN WUSHAN, SICHUAN

ALONG the Daning river, which joins the mighty Yangtze at this town of "Witch Mountain" — named after a rock formation resembling a sorceress — peasants work in fields of black fertile earth. But in just a few years, they will have to move up to the steep mountain ridges, and terrace it in back-breaking labour to escape the waters of a reservoir.

"Some of them are not too happy about that," said Zhang Qing, 27, as our motorised sampan passed beneath Dragon Gate Bridge, which stood almost 360ft above us. The water level of the 394-mile-long reservoir — which will form behind the mammoth Three Gorges Dam, now under construction downstream on the Yangtze — will reach the road surface of the bridge, she explained.

Most of the little "three gorges", which are miniature versions of the famed Three Gorges on the Yangtze, will be flooded in a few years to provide irrigation and hydroelectric power. The mandarin ducks will probably survive,



The mammoth Three Gorges Dam under construction

but it is sobering to think that the monkeys who play in the undergrowth on the banks will have to be evacuated along with 1.2 million people in 300 towns and villages. The screams of the monkeys used to be heard all along the Yangtze, and Li Bai, the Tang dynasty poet, mentioned them, but this is their last retreat.

By 2003, Wushan, a surprisingly rakish town at the confluence of the Daning and Yangtze with its population of 90,000 in noisy, tree-lined

streets, and its myriad markets and karaoke bars, will be entirely under the muddy, polluted reservoir waters.

In truth, the loss of towns such as Wushan and Wudan is not a catastrophe, as most buildings are ugly concrete blocks built during the architecturally dull Maoist period of the 1950s. Still, this whole area is important in Chinese history, site of the Kingdoms of Shu and Wu during the period romanticised in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, a classic as important in Chinese culture as the *Iliad* is in the West.

Archaeologists say that they do not have enough funds to dig much in the "little gorges", where a race called the Ba once lived and whose coffins were placed on pegs on cliffs

34 killed in Algeria ambush

Paris: Muslim fundamentalists killed 34 people in an Algerian town, including 20 bus passengers who had their throats cut, Algerian newspapers reported yesterday.

"Passengers of a bus were told [by terrorists] to get out for identity checks which turned into a nightmare. One by one their throats were coldly slit," *Liberé* said. The ambush, in the south of the Saharan desert town of Laghouat, was one of the bloodiest reported in nearly five years of violence. (Reuters)

Pope stepping back to health

Rome: The Pope was making a smooth recovery from his appendix operation yesterday, walking around and chatting with doctors, who said a definitive biopsy had shown that he did not have a tumour. "He spoke with us and he strolled around the corridors of his suite," said Professor Luigi Ortona, a senior member of the Pope's medical team. (Reuters)

Rabbits freed to spread disease

Sydney: The Australian Government has officially released rabbits in New South Wales infected with the deadly rabbit calicivirus disease, hoping it will spread and kill most of the estimated 200 million rabbits ravaging the countryside. The virus accidentally escaped from an island laboratory last year. (AFP)

Liberians ask for end to aid

Monrovia: Starving people in Liberia are asking to be spared more aid because it attracts guerrilla factions. Tasema Nagash, a UN humanitarian co-ordinator, said: "In the latest atrocity, 25 people were killed, mostly women and children. (AFP)

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Taleban conquest falters as Afghan factions fight back

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JABAL OS-SIRAJ

THE Taleban Islamic militia has been halted in its stunning sweep through Afghanistan. The fighters, overstretched and outmanoeuvred, appeared yesterday to have suspended their siege of former government forces in the Panjshir Valley.

The Islamic warriors have regrouped in the small town of Jabal os-Siraj, which straddles the Salang Highway a few miles from the mouth of the Panjshir. This is one of the biggest reverses for Taleban in its two-year march through the country, three-quarters of which it controls. Its hopes of swiftly capturing northern Afghanistan seem suddenly to have collapsed.

Additional tanks, artillery and men were shifted to Jabal os-Siraj on Tuesday and yesterday. This is Taleban's principal supply base for the siege of Panjshir as well as for forces guarding the Salang Highway against the troops of General

Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord of the north, who controls the vital Salang Tunnel. He seems to have allied himself with the ousted Government against the invaders. That would make a formidable partnership.

Jabal os-Siraj, a few miles south of the tunnel, could probably not survive for long against a determined joint operation by General Dostum and General Ahmed Shah Masood, the defence chief of the defeated Government. The extent of their alliance is not yet clear. General Dostum has said there is no pact and that he remains neutral. This seems improbable.

He is continuing talks in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif with Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President. General Dostum has not ruled out holding talks with Taleban if it halts its military offensive. The former communist commander is a military oppor-

tunist who has changed sides several times in Afghanistan's 17 years of armed conflict. He has huge amounts of hardware, including fighter aircraft. In Afghan terms he is an Islamic moderate: some of his men even drink.

General Masood has some old Russian MiG21s, and he escaped to the Panjshir two weeks ago with most of his tanks and artillery.

General Dostum participated, or at least co-operated, in an assault on Taleban forces south of the Salang Tunnel two days ago. Scores of Taleban fighters died in the confrontation and Taleban also lost 200 to 300 men in its assault on the Panjshir.

The mood of Taleban soldiers guarding the approaches to Jabal os-Siraj yesterday was sombre. There was no sound of shelling at the Panjshir, apparently confirming reports that the assault has stopped.

Afghanistan looks set for prolonged uncertainty as it enters a new phase of war. Taleban's military strategists in the southern city of Kandahar are doubtless stunned by the reverse in their fortunes. In Kabul, its religious leaders are equally as surprised by mounting international hostility to its harsh theocracy.

□ Kabul: An International Red Cross official was severely beaten and held for 13 hours after being detained by Taleban militia in Kabul. The organisation has complained to the Government. (AFP)



Binyamin Netanyahu with his wife, Sara, whose former husband said he was alarmed to see her reviewing state papers

Marriage book threatens Netanyahu

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S accident-prone First Lady was at the centre of a new scandal yesterday after disclosures that her former husband was about to publish an unflattering memoir of their six-year marriage.

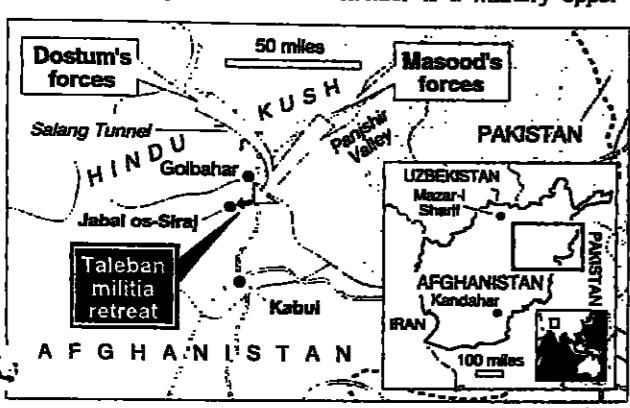
The Israeli press reported that aides to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had failed to prevent publication of intimate disclosures about his third wife, Sara, by the man she married in 1981. The impending publi-

cation of the book by Doron Neuberger, a kibbutz teacher whose marriage ended in divorce, cast a new political shadow over Mr Netanyahu at a time when he is facing strong pressure at home and abroad over his handling of the recent security crisis with the Palestinians.

It came as Mrs Netanyahu, 37, was still struggling to shake off the memory of an earlier scandal over her alleged tyranny of two domestic servants and her alleged obsession with cleanliness.

Israel's tabloid press carried stories yesterday alleging that \$1 million (£640,000) had been demanded unsuccessfully by Mr Neuberger from the Prime Minister's office to suppress the book.

□ Sharon plea: Ariel Sharon, Israel's hawkish former Defence Minister, surprised Israelis and Arabs by saying in a radio broadcast yesterday that concessions were now necessary in order to make peace in the region.



Turks kill 250 to thwart Kurdish offensive

FROM ANDREW FINKEL
IN ISTANBUL

TURKISH security officials say they may have thwarted a late autumn offensive by Kurdish militants in the southeast of the country. Unconfirmed reports speak of more than 250 members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) being killed in nearly a week of intensive fighting.

Western analysts said Turkish troops drove PKK activists into narrower and narrower concentric circles around Sivas and Hakkari. Reports also refer to 'shot pursuit' operations over the Turkish border into northern Iraq and air attacks

against PKK bases deep into Iraqi territory. The bloodiest confrontation appears to have occurred in the mountains above Uludere, on the Iraqi border, where 118 PKK died. A total of 15 Turks are reported to have been killed and the PKK's local commander is said to be among the 43 militants killed at Sivas.

The apparent success of the Turkish Army in heading off this latest PKK advance demonstrates a major change in tactics. Under a new Commander-in-Chief, Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, the military and the security forces are now reported to be both better co-ordinated and more aggressive. The military now

operates at night and at the high altitudes which the PKK traditionally regarded as their safe haven.

While the success of the operations may have curtailed the PKK in the short term, sources close to the Turkish military also say the supply of potential recruits among the unemployed and disaffected population of the Turkish southeast is 'inexhaustible'.

□ Hunger strike: Vedat Aydemir, a Kurdish rebel prisoner, has died in hospital ten days after setting himself alight to protest at the deaths of 11 Kurdish prisoners in a southeastern jail. (Reuters)

Maid accuses envoy of rape

Shah Alam, Malaysia: A Filipina maid, 27, yesterday filed a civil suit in the Malaysian High Court alleging she had been raped by Kresimir Zandaric, 46, the Croatian Ambassador. Malaysian law provides for a jail term of up to 20 years and whipping for rape. Maria Ocampo alleges that the ambassador, who hired her on April 7, raped her four times between April 11 and August 23. (AFP)

Children die in hostel fire

Kuala Lumpur: Eleven children were burnt to death yesterday in a fire that engulfed their hostel in Sarawak, the Malaysian state on the island of Borneo.

The victims were ten boys aged between eight and 11 and a nine-year-old girl. The Bernama national news agency quoted Wan Alkap Man, a fire chief, as saying: 'The blaze had nearly burnt itself out by the time firefighters arrived in the remote village of Kampung Sessang. Eighteen

children were sleeping in the hostel at the time of the fire. The seven survivors were treated for burns in hospital. The dead children, most of them Muslims, could only be identified from objects on their bodies.' (Reuters)

□ Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has accepted back into his party 200,000 members of the Spirit of '46, a defunct rival group, before crucial polls this week. (Reuters)

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Europe 'faces rising threat from global missile stock'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TEN different types of ballistic missiles are now deployed in the most unstable region of the world extending from Libya to North Korea.

In the latest assessment of the growing ballistic missile threat, the International Institute for Strategic Studies showed in an annual report how the range of these systems is reaching further towards Western Europe.

Britain and other European countries are examining options for developing anti-ballistic missile defences, although it is recognised that the cost may be prohibitive. According to the institute's report on the balance of forces across the world, in the Middle East, and in Central, South and East Asia, there is a proliferation of ballistic missiles with ranges varying from 45 miles to about 1,700.

The family of ballistic missiles includes Russian-made Scud Bs in Libya, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and North Korea; Chinese-made CSS 2s in Saudi Arabia; and Jericho Is and 2s in Israel.

The biggest ballistic missile in this family of medium and short-range weapons is the Chinese CSS 2 which has a range of about 1,700 miles and an explosive payload of 2,000kg. Pakistan and India have their own ballistic missiles. India has Prithvi missiles with a range of between 90 and 155 miles and a payload of up to 1,000kg, and Pakistan has Hafiz missiles, with ranges up to 375 miles and a maximum payload of

500kg. Libya's Scud Bs have the capability of reaching Naples, the report said. "Libya continues to cause security concerns, not only within the region, but also among the Western powers whose concerns focus on the suspected development of weapons of mass destruction, in particular chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery," the report said.

Libya was constructing a special underground facility at Tarhuna, about 35 miles southeast of Tripoli, which the West suspected was to be a chemical weapons plant.

Iraq, the report said, was still restrained from developing new military capabilities because of the restrictions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. However, Baghdad had not been deterred "from efforts to hide and retain what proscribed military capabilities they can".

In the Middle East and North Africa, where many of the ballistic missiles are deployed, defence spending across the region had shown a small increase in 1996, the report said. Saudi Arabia accounted for nearly a third of regional spending on defence. Israel, Iran, Egypt and Syria were also high defence spenders. Very little public information was available on Iraq. The Iranian defence budget for 1996 had increased substantially to \$3.4 billion (£2.2 billion), with arms imports coming mainly from Russia and China.

[The Military Balance 1996/1997, International Institute for Strategic Studies.]

Rivals say Lebed has sold out to Nato

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S security chief, General Aleksandr Lebed, faced a storm of protest when he returned to Moscow last night after his visit to Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Although the trip, his first to the West, was regarded by Nato officials as a resounding success, the security adviser's detractors at home were accusing him of selling out Russia, first to Chechen rebels and now to the alliance.

Viktor Vishnyakov, a parliamentarian for the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, said yesterday that General Lebed would be summoned to testify before the Duma to answer charges of weakening Russia's security.

"Before he left, Lebed spoke out against eastwards Nato expansion, but when he landed in Brussels he started saying how peaceful and civilised Nato is," the right-wing deputy said.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, his party leader, was more blunt. He compared General Lebed to Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, who he said was seduced by the West. "While his paratroop divisions are being liquidated he is exchanging hugs with Nato generals in Brussels," Mr Zhirinovsky said.

The latest criticism comes after a torrent of invective directed towards the ambitious former paratrooper, whose naked desire to become President has earned him enemies in government circles as well as among opposition figures. Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, regarded as a contender for the presidency, compared General Lebed to Stalin.

Aleksandr Lebed, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Jean-Marc Connerot, the investigating magistrate who is being forced to drop the case

Sex case prosecutors face sack

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PUBLIC anger over Belgium's child murder scandal reached a new pitch yesterday when the country's senior prosecutor called for the judicial investigator and local prosecutor to be removed from the case for accepting a free meal from supporters of the pair on the basis that they had compromised their objectivity by attending the dinner.

Elliane Liekendael, the state prosecutor, said it was with heavy heart that she felt legally obliged to advise the country's highest court to remove from the case Jean-Marc Connerot and Michel Bourlet, the investigating magistrate and the prosecutor

of Neufchâteau. A fresh wave of indignation has swept the country over the past week since the lawyer for Marc Dutroux, the man suspected of killing four girls and kidnapping two others, called for the pair to be taken off the case on the basis that they had compromised their objectivity by attending the dinner.

Mr Connerot and Mr Bourlet had emerged as national heroes for their aggressive pursuit of a case that has brought the Belgian justice system and the state itself into severe disrepute. The Cour de Cassation, or supreme court,

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Gould in row with staff and students

FROM JO ANDREWS
IN WELLINGTON

BRYAN GOULD, the former Labour MP, has become the first university Vice-Chancellor in New Zealand's history simultaneously to face a strike by academic staff and a threat of legal action by students.

Waikato University's academic and general staff went on strike yesterday in support of a 6 per cent pay rise. At the same time, the student union threatened to sue the university for a breach of contract for failing to provide lectures.

Their action comes as the student newspaper published more details of the £80,000 renovations done to the Vice-Chancellor's house and swimming pool since Mr Gould's appointment. The strike is being held in the last week of lectures before the end-of-year exams begin and three days before a general election. The student union estimates that about 500 students missed lectures and are threatening to sue the university.

Ben King, president of the Waikato Student Union, said: "It is the last week [before exams] and students have contracted with the university to get a full set of lectures. We can take a civil action against the university or the other thing we can do is to have a mass application for reconsideration of our grades."

Mr Gould said: "I think it is very regrettable that some of our staff seem prepared to take action that jeopardises the interests of students."

Dr Raymond Richards, of the Association of University Staff, said members were disgusted that Mr Gould refused to negotiate academic salaries himself and had left it to the university's chief negotiator. He added: "There is increasing concern about all these horror stories about spending on his house and pool... If the university has got the money for that, it should have got the money to pay us."

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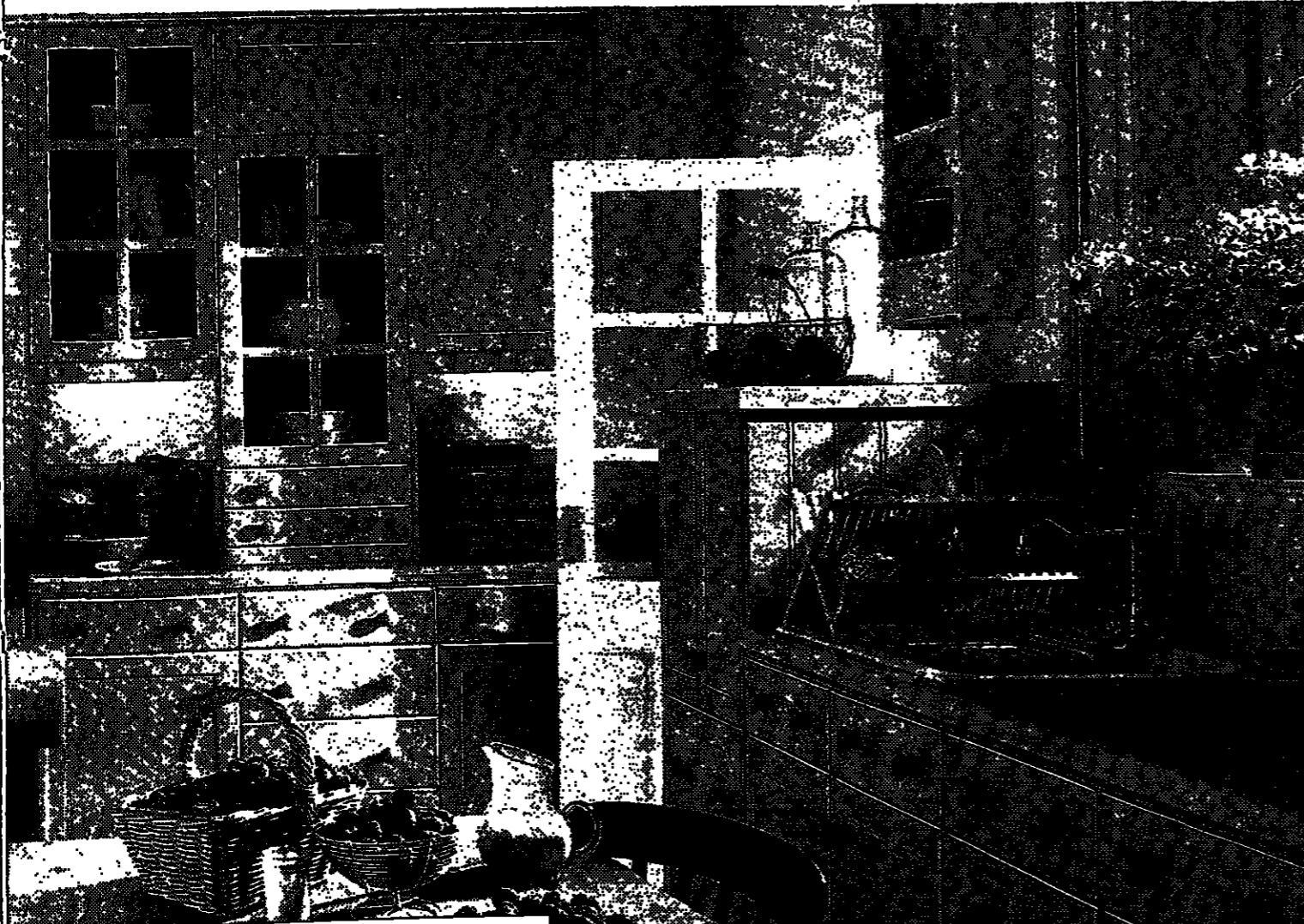
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Magnet
Food for thought

Gould: £80,000 spent
on house and pool

Clinton's morality attacked in Dole change of tactics

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

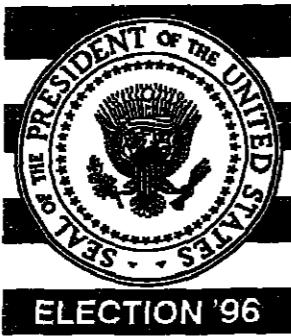
THE American presidential campaign is finally heating up. As Al Gore and Jack Kemp prepared for last night's vice-presidential debate, Bob Dole unleashed his first really harsh attacks on Bill Clinton's character and morals.

The struggling Republican candidate assailed the President as a man whose "word's not good". He unveiled an advertisement blaming Mr Clinton for the nation's "moral crisis" and accused him of "playing around" as millions of young Americans turned to drugs or tobacco.

Asked by an interviewer whether Mr Clinton had the ethics and morale to be President, Mr Dole replied that it was a "very close question" and one that troubled him.

"I don't admire Bill Clinton," he told another interviewer. In a third interview, he regretted not raising the "Filegate" scandal during last Sunday's presidential debate, or pressing Mr Clinton harder on the issue of Whitewater pardons. He vowed to do so in their second debate next Wednesday. "There's no gag order on Whitewater," declared Nelson Field, his spokesman.

At a New Jersey rally, the Dole campaign produced Michael Chertoff, the chief counsel to the Republican-controlled Whitewater Committee, who recalled that Mr Clinton had promised the most ethical administration in American history.



ELECTION '96

"How many of that Administration are in jail now?" Mr Chertoff demanded. "How many members of that Administration had to resign in disgrace? Why does the White House spend more time hiding its files from subpoenas than it does pursuing drug dealers?"

At one point, Mr Dole called Mr Clinton a clown, telling a supporter: "Bozo's on his way out". It was an unfortunate remark, because President Bush called Mr Clinton and Mr Gore "Bozo" shortly before his crushing 1992 defeat.

The attacks contrasted sharply with Mr Dole's civility during Sunday's debate, when he refused the moderator's invitation to list Mr Clinton's personal flaws, declined to raise Whitewater, and admitted: "I happen to like President Clinton personally". However, Mr Dole did rebuke Mr Clinton for his failure to address Mr Bush as "Mr President" in the 1992 debates.

The Clinton camp drew the obvious conclusion. "It seems they've come to the realisation that nothing has worked for them in this campaign," said Joe Lockhart, the chief spokesman. "They're now resorting to desperate attacks that are destined to fail. It's unfortunate that somebody with Bob Dole's reputation for integrity would put his name to these kind of attacks."

Mr Dole's new aggression presented Mr Kemp, his running-mate, with a dilemma as he prepared for last night's debate in St Petersburg, Florida. Running-mates traditionally deliver the searing personal attacks so their bosses can stay above the fray. However, Mr Kemp is more interested in ideas and policies than negative campaigning, and joined Mr Dole's ticket on condition that he would not play "attack dog".

A Reuter poll has put Mr Dole just five percentage points behind Mr Clinton, but it was sharply out of line with others, which gave Mr Clinton leads of 22, 21 and 16 points.

□ Spending dispute: Common Cause, an organisation that crusades for cleaner politics, demanded that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate the most massive violations of the campaign finance laws since the Watergate scandal. It said the Dole and Clinton campaigns had both spent tens of millions of dollars above their legal limit.

Irish famine compared to the Holocaust

New York schools to study 'evil of Britain'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE New York State Governor has passed legislation which compares British conduct during the Irish famine to that of the Nazis during the Holocaust and has ordered that the disastrous potato blight of 1845-49 be taught in human rights courses in New York schools.

George Pataki, apparently embracing the Irish-American vote, said that "history teaches us the Great Irish Hunger was not the result of a massive failure of the Irish potato crop but rather was the result of a deliberate campaign by the British to deny the Irish people the food they needed to survive".

As a result, he said, he had ordered that the Irish famine be included in the New York schools curriculum.

The new law will specifically add the Irish famine to a list of human rights abuses, which is currently limited to slavery, genocide and the Holocaust.

It will become part of a body of law which requires the state's Board of Regents to prescribe school lessons in patriotism, citizenship and human rights issues. The latter will now teach young New Yorkers the evil intent of the British.

"More than one million men, women and children died as a result of this mass starvation," said the Governor, who is of Hungarian descent. "Millions more were forced to flee their native land to avoid certain death, while large quantities of grain and livestock were exported from Ireland to England.

"This tragic event had dramatic implications in the United States, where millions of Irish immigrants had a significant impact on every facet of American life and culture."

While few historians will deny that British politicians did not distinguish them-



An engraving of a family during the Irish famine, in the course of which more than a million people died

nor, who is of Hungarian descent. "Millions more were forced to flee their native land to avoid certain death, while large quantities of grain and livestock were exported from Ireland to England.

He believes she persisted with what he calls a "flawed marriage" because "she has repeatedly succumbed to the seductive attraction of Bill Clinton himself". He dismisses the notion that reaching the White House, even through the role of First Lady rather than President, had powerful appeal.

Some critics suggest that he is trying to court the liberal press. Others say he is right there simply is no new dirt to find.

as to the factual causes of one of the greatest calamities of humankind. Secondly, this law will stand as a living memorial to all those who suffered and died during *An Gorta Mor*, or Ireland's Great Hunger."

A spokesman for the Council for Basic Education, a Washington-based organisation, said yesterday that the effectiveness of legislation such as that which had been passed by Mr Pataki was open to question. "Teachers still have the last say in the classroom," he said.

senator, said: "Being from Ukrainian ancestral ties, I am keenly aware of the necessity to inform New York's children of the injustices suffered by many of New York's ethnic population."

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Conservative convert builds shrine to 'St Hillary'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON is more sinned against than sinning, according to a new biography of the President's wife. The book, which gave White House officials sleepless nights before publication, has emerged as more hagiography than hatchet job, to the astonishment of both friends and foes of the Clinton Administration.

The Seduction of Hillary Clinton, published this week, was widely expected to be a no-holds-barred exposé of one of the most controversial

presidential wives in American history. The author, David Brock, a conservative journalist, is best known for investigations into President Clinton's sex life and for a caustic treatment at Anita Hill, the woman who accused Clarence Thomas, the Supreme Court judge, of sexual harassment.

He has said that he began the Clinton book "thinking that the conservative caricature was correct: that she was a malevolent, corrupt power-mad shrew". But while Mr Brock clearly came to mock, he stayed to pray, and has spent 450 pages building his subject into an appropriate idol. He

argues that Mrs Clinton has unfairly been held to blame for her husband's failings. On Whitewater, he finds little proof that she abused her position at the Rose Law Firm to help her clients or herself. However, Mr Brock's critics say he offers no new evidence and dismisses "sometimes powerful" signs that Mrs Clinton lied about incidents in Arkansas and the White House.

Most of Mr Brock's sympathy for Mrs Clinton appears to stem from an uninhibited analysis of her psychological state. "Despite her ... youthful accomplishments, there seems to have remained a kind of empty place or well

of insecurity in Hillary," he argues. "Bill's perpetual philandering and cruel asides must have made her self-esteem all the harder to maintain."

He believes she persisted with what he calls a "flawed marriage" because "she has repeatedly succumbed to the seductive attraction of Bill Clinton himself". He dismisses the notion that reaching the White House, even through the role of First Lady rather than President, had powerful appeal.

Some critics suggest that he is trying to court the liberal press. Others say he is right there simply is no new dirt to find.

155 journalists murdered

Los Angeles: A total of 155 journalists have been murdered in the Americas over the past seven years, according to a report by the International Press Association. The report said 62 were killed in Colombia; 19 in Mexico; 18 in Peru; 16 in El Salvador; 12 in Brazil; 12 in Guatemala; five in Venezuela; two in Haiti; two in Ecuador; one in Canada and one in Paraguay. (AFP)

Burns resurrected as God

New York: Seven months after his death at the age of 100, the comedian George Burns has been cast as the star in a forthcoming Hollywood film (Quentin Letts writes).

Burns's face and the cigar-flavoured rasp of his voice will be re-created by computer gadgetry for *The Best Man*. Under a deal agreed between his family, his long-term manager, Irving Fein, and the film's producer, Scott Lane, the Burns estate will receive \$20,000 (£12,800) for

each minute that the late actor's features are shown on screen. Mr Lane has secured rights to the image that was George Burns.

Mr Lane said: "It's like a reverse *Forrest Gump*. Instead of inserting a real actor into newsreel footage, we'll be inserting a computer-generated George Burns into new scenes with live actors."

The re-created Burns will play one of his best-known roles as God — allowing *The Best Man* to become a sequel to the 1977 hit film, *Oh God*.

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An old man's darling

There are two types of women who prefer older men: the smart and successful, and the babes.
Jason Cowley reports

The youthful writer Cristina Odone was recently spotted stepping out with the grizzled broadcaster John Humphrys at the party to celebrate the rebirth of *Punch*. And she wasn't alone; no, it wasn't that Mr Humphrys was trailing women from his arms like streamers. It was just that the room seemed to be full of old men's darlings: young women cuddling up to men surely too old to be their husbands but behaving too flirtatiously to be their fathers.

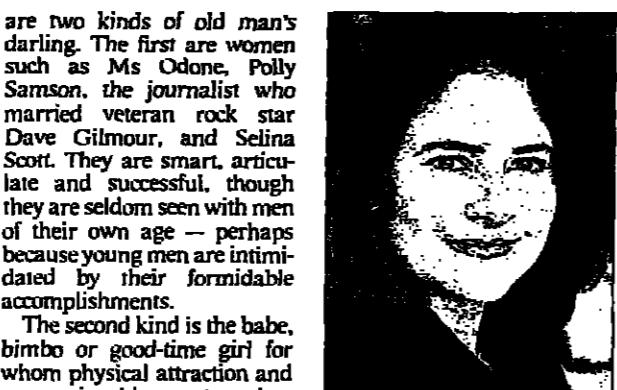
Now I have nothing against Mr Humphrys. As a broadcaster, he is tough, resolute and only occasionally rebarbative. His voice is strong. His tanned skin is drawn tightly across his face, and his silver hair looks as if it is trimmed every day. And with his reassuring smile, he seems more like a benign uncle than a feared slayer of politicians' cant. In fact, if you were asked for one adjective to describe him you would surely choose avuncular: it's not hard to picture him at home in a cotton dressing-gown sipping a late-night mug of warm, sugared milk.

As for Ms Odone... well, she's not the kind of woman one would have thought, to settle for being an old man's darling, even though she has lunched with Richard Ingram, John Mortimer, Auberon Waugh and other self-styled oldies. The daughter of an Italian father and Swedish mother, Ms Odone combines exoticism with eroticism; a former editor of the *Catholic Herald* and with intellectual pretensions (her debut novel, *The Shrine*, is testament to that), she teases her many admirers by hinting how "very, very bad she would be were it not for her faith".

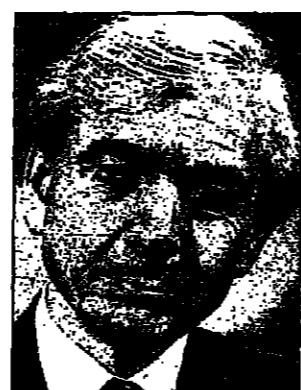
According to the psychotherapist Rachel White there



Women who are successful and articulate often prefer older men. The journalist Polly Samson married the veteran rock star Dave Gilmour



Stepping out: Cristina Odone and John Humphrys



be offering support to her frail husband. Perversely, they could almost be mother and son, so vulnerable does *Mars* appear in her arms. Their relationship was the obverse of what has been called the "daddy syndrome": it is Anna Nicole who is in control.

Some of the most famous mistresses in history were old men's darlings — the actress *Nell Gwyn*, who hauled herself out of a life of servitude and poverty through her relationship with Charles II, *Lily Langtry*, and the first kiss-and-tell girl, *Harriet Wilson*. "Publish and be damned," she said.

Duke of Wellington told the scheming Harriet when she threatened to expose him, among others, in her memoirs. She did publish, famously beginning her account thus: "I shall not relate how at the age of 12 I became the mistress of the Earl of Craven." Wellington later denied ever having known her.

The psychologist Dorothy Rowe says: "Until the early part of this century most women had no way of supporting themselves, unless they worked in domestic service, or as prostitutes, or had inherited money. So, of course, in those circumstances a successful older man is going to appear attractive — and useful. The same applies today: it is obviously advantageous for an aspiring young actress to have a boyfriend like a famous director since he offers more than someone of her own age could."

There is also the aspect of paternal security: "If a woman had a particularly good relationship with her father as a little girl, then she may be looking for protection and security in a relationship. As for the man, I'm afraid it all comes down to the fact that it makes him feel good to be seen with younger women. It also sends a signal to other men that not only is he attractive to beautiful women, but he is still sexually competent."

The writer and columnist Petronella Wyatt, 27, says there was a time when she would never look at a man unless he was at least 15 years older. "But I now think that you should grow out of preferring older men, because if you don't, then you're never going to grow up yourself. That said, I would never go out with a man in his twenties."

Well, to echo Philip Larkin, it's good to get that learnt.

The servant problem

What would you do if you suddenly found yourself very, very rich? Buy a star sapphire? An exquisite house in the country? Present your dear old alma mater with a new library? Whatever form the luxury might take, the idea of riches is associated with large

capital outlay and outrageous personal indulgence.

The rich are different, no doubt about it. Except, that is, when they are just like you and me. Or, indeed, when they are you and me. According to a government survey on family spending published today, in order to number

yourself among the richest families in Britain, it is sufficient to command a nanny, a third car and a surprisingly modest outlay on wine. The very rich, one learns, spend £750 a week on the stuff, a sum which, though insufficient to cover the cost of a bottle of Sainsbury's Medoc,

is more than three times the national average.

Of course, it is true that almost no one admits to being rich. But what the report has highlighted is that however poor one may feel, certain things invariably indicate prosperity — and chief among them is employing staff.

Fifty years ago, Evelyn Waugh wrote to Nancy Mitford in France, enclosing a picture of himself surrounded by old retainers: "If you lived here," replied Mitford, "you wouldn't dare have that photograph taken because having such millions of servants would be a sign of wealth and you'd be taxed accordingly."

But as the modern employer of staff digests the unexpected news of his official wealth, he (or she) will probably reflect that the cost of hiring someone to mind the children is only the beginning of the problem. It would be a bold head of household nowadays who dared to ask Tricia, the Australian wonder-nanny, to line up with the 25-year-old Croatian cleaning-lady for a team photograph.

The financial chasm between rich and poor may yawn as wide as ever, but class distinctions have dwindled and in doing so have created an extreme social disease. Acutely aware of each other as Fellow Humans, we now find it impossible to cope with giving or receiving orders. Take the recent sad story of Lady Apsley and her housekeeper, Carole Parker. Mrs Parker took exception to Lady Apsley's manner which was, she felt, calculated to undermine her sense of self-worth. Indeed, so grievously undermined did she feel that she resorted to nicking the Apsley family heirlooms.

This is, of course, exactly what we are terrified of in our dealings with staff. Now that the notion of a hierarchy of master and servant is, rightly, taboo, we find ourselves employing people just like us. But we can't relax about it. Guilt and anguish come written into the contract of employment. We don't just want our domestic help to bring a smile to the baby's face and a sparkle to the cutlery. We want them to love us as well.

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JANE SHILLING

Dressing for distress

So James Hewitt wasn't in that video — but he was in that shabby sweater, says Nick Foulkes

The most interesting satirical point to be raised by the now infamous hoax video of Diana, Princess of Wales and James Hewitt is not what was worn or not worn, but what Captain Hewitt was photographed wearing on Tuesday: a sweater with a hole.

The fact that a man branded a cad by the Establishment has now taken to wearing the scruffy clothes which embody the traditional "don't know, don't care" attitude of many English aristocrats towards fashion begs the question: is the hole real or fake?

The capsule distressed wardrobe of the prototypical English gent must include at least one exhausted tweed jacket (preferably by Hawkes & Co before its amalgamation with Gieves), with leather binding on the cuffs and at least one prominent repair. Trousers should be of a grey worsted cloth, shiny with age. New suede shoes are distinctly caddish, but a highly scuffed Oxford, bought from Duckers in Oxford

publicly once natty Captain has taken refuge in "comfort clothes" in much the same way that some depressed people binge on comfort foods such as chocolate and ice-cream.

OR IS IT that the Captain is revealing his erudition? The academic John Bayley displays a heroic absent-mindedness about his wardrobe, while that elegant publisher of literature in translation, Christopher MacLennan of Harvill, has been seen on occasion sporting a frayed collar.

However, Mr MacLennan hotly defends his shirts. "In all these years, nobody has complained about them hitherto," he says testily. What is more, he has a warning for those who try too hard to be shabby. "It is sheer affectation on anybody's part who makes a habit of it."

Captain Hewitt, you have been warned.

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High dose of courage



Dr Thomas Stuttaford
on the
bravery of
Linda
McCartney;
fighting
meningitis; and
the benefits in a
pint of beer

Patients with breast cancer have been looking rather quizzically at their doctors this week. The news that Linda McCartney has flown to California to have further treatment made them feel, not unnaturally, that life-saving treatment was available to the rich and powerful, but denied to those on the council estates.

Despite traditional treatment last year in Britain, Linda McCartney has had a recurrence of her breast cancer.

In America, over the past five years, high-dose chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer, when it has spread to distant parts of the body, has been adopted by many cancer specialists with an almost religious fervour.

It is this therapy which has lured Linda McCartney to California.

High-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation has not yet passed through the randomised trial stage of development either in America or here, and so despite its popularity in America, where about a thousand patients are treated with it every year, it cannot yet be said to be of proven benefit.

Agreeing to high-dose chemotherapy is a brave decision, and not one to be taken without being fully aware of its unpleasant and dangerous nature.

About 5 per cent of the women having it will die from the treatment rather than their cancer.

A woman having this treatment should expect to be in hospital for three weeks, much of the time in intensive care, and she will probably feel ill for many months afterwards.

The procedure differs from unit to unit and in some the initial dose is repeated once the woman is strong enough, usually after about three weeks.

In high-dose chemotherapy, patients suffer all the usual side effects of chemotherapy, such as hair loss, nausea, vomiting, extreme tiredness



Linda McCartney, supported by Paul, went to America for high-dose chemotherapy when her breast cancer recurred

and generally feeling rotten. In addition it will seriously damage the bone marrow and can cause complications to both the liver and heart.

The problem of bone marrow destruction is overcome by the transplantation of stem cells, derived from either the bone marrow or peripheral blood, but now usually obtained from the blood because it is the safer method.

Dr Ian Smith, consultant to the Royal Marsden Hospital, in London, said: "The jury is out on high-dose chemotherapy with transplantation.

"We won't know for about another two years whether it is

of real benefit until the results of randomised trials set up in various centres report their results."

Dr Smith said there was adequate funding for the trials and that, in his opinion, British doctors are following a responsible course in not recommending distressing and dangerous treatment to patients until it could be shown to be of benefit.

Most of the trials set up here use the procedure recommended by Dr Bill Peters, of Duke University, North Carolina. But, at the Royal Marsden, high-dose chemotherapy is being tested in a rather different way — a pump has been devised which will give the patient a slow, continuous trickle of drugs. Results of the Marsden research are also, as yet, unknown.

Dr Price is in favour of treating patients with cancer of the breast, who are known to be at high risk, for future trouble, with early high-dose chemotherapy and not waiting for the problem to occur.

Dr Price acknowledges the usefulness of random trials and that in this instance British doctors, like some of their American counterparts, were being too conservative. "In Britain we are, after all, at the bottom of the league table for the survival of breast cancer."

"Much of this trouble may be because we do not have enough medical oncologists to co-operate with the surgeons and radiotherapists, but perhaps some of our bad figures are the result of our conservative nature."

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Of all the infectious diseases in Britain, meningitis is the most frightening. No age group is free from danger when an outbreak occurs in the vicinity. Parents and grandparents fear for the children, adolescents are concerned for their friends as well as themselves and everybody is aware that although the disease is more common in children and adolescents, it can attack at any age.

The anxiety meningitis instils in a community is not only because of the numbers it kills but because of the nature and speed of the death. Last year a middle-aged woman, the sister of one of my patients, told her husband at breakfast before he went off to work that she thought she was sickening for flu. By tea-time meningococcal septicaemia had been diagnosed and later that evening she died.

This patient had been immediately and correctly diagnosed by her own doctor and given emergency penicillin before being admitted to hospital, but even so it was too late to save her life. It is easy to kill all the meningococci with antibiotics but counteracting the damage done to a system by the bacterial toxins which were causing the septicaemia is almost impossible.

Meningococci are common bacteria: one in ten people at any one time has the organism in their nose or throat but nobody knows why it should suddenly turn lethal.

When a disease is so difficult to diagnose, and kills so quickly, vaccination against it is the obvious medical answer. There are already vaccines against infections caused by meningococci

which have strains of Group B meningococci there are useful vaccines. Doctors in Cuba claim to have eradicated Group B meningococci by vaccination and the injection has also proved to be effective in other South American countries.

Professor Michael Levin, who treats meningitis cases at St Mary's Hospital in London, is anxious to test the vaccine which has proved effective in South America against the strain of meningitis or meningococci Group B found in Britain. It is planned to carry out experiments to see if blood taken from Cuban children who have been vaccinated against meningitis would kill the British strains of the organism. If the experiment is successful, time spent on British trials would be dramatically reduced and lives saved.

Funds were needed for Professor Levin's work, so he approached the medical charity Remedi. Remedi had contacts with the October Club, a group of archetypal young City men who have raised nearly a million pounds for medical research in the past nine years. Next week the October Club is meeting at The Savoy where it hopes to raise enough money to finance the St Mary's project. If successful, club members will have reached their target of a million in nine years. But what is more important is

they may well have brought the time nearer when parents don't have to search for the early signs of meningitis (fever, vomiting, neck stiffness, headache, drowsiness, irritability and distinctive small red spots) every time their child has a cold.



Workers in the City are supporting research

Forbidden fruit from the hedges



A REPORT this week shows that the destruction of the British hedgerow, with all its autumnal fruiting trees, continues apace. Some older hedgerows have been growing for a thousand years and at this time of year contain a wide variety of berries.

Many berries, such as blackberries and hips, are nutritious but others contain complex organic chemicals

which have evolved to deter humans and animals from eating them. Human metabolism hasn't adapted so well to dealing with poisons in plants as has that of many wild animals. Consequently humans, and young children in particular, are in greater danger. Every parent knows daphne and black nightshade are deadly, fewer that Virginian creeper and horse chestnuts can also cause trouble.

If it is suspected that children have been eating unwise

in the garden or along hedges, it helps to make them sick immediately, and they must be taken at once to a casualty department. The casualty officer's job is made easier if evidence of what the child has eaten is also brought along.

Each district has a poisons unit which can give expert advice to emergency services, and volumes such as the *Oxford Text Book of Medicine* contain lists of all common poisonous plants and their antidotes.

Strokes could be prevented



A PARTICULAR type of irregular heartbeat known as fibrillation is liable to cause a stroke. The disordered action of the heart results in small emboli — clots — escaping into the cerebral circulation, but the danger from these clots can be reduced if the patient is treated with adequate doses of anti-coagulant drugs.

Research published in *Pulse* magazine shows that only a half of "younger" pensioners whose hearts are fibrillating receive adequate treatment. Of those over 74, even fewer are properly treated, even though the risk of a stroke is higher.

Dr Mark Sutlow, of the Medical Research Council, estimates that the correct use of anti-coagulants would prevent 9,000 strokes a year.

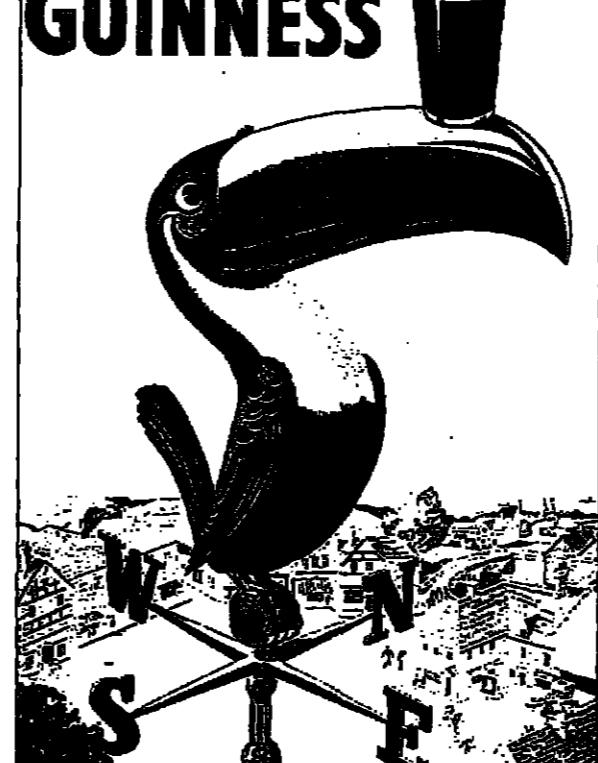
A review in the medical magazine *Monitor* has also investigated the unnecessary loss of life from strokes caused by inadequate treatment.

The reviewer suggests that the lesson to be learned from new research is that if anti-coagulation is to be prescribed, it should be done properly. Treatment with the anti-coagulant Warfarin, properly monitored, is recommended as the therapy of choice.

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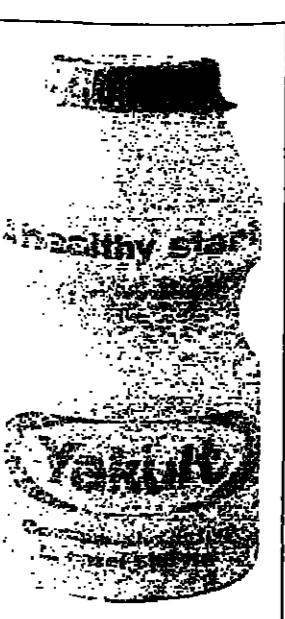


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Bacon falls violently in love

Day four: Bacon's obsessive affair with the self-destructive Peter Lacy takes him to Tangier, where the artist, tortured by sexual jealousy, finds comfort in casual beatings in dark alleys



FRANCIS BACON REVEALED

Bacon was near 40 when he fell in love for the first time. He met Peter Lacy in the Colony Room, a newly-opened Soho drinking club, and, as Bacon described it, their mutual attraction was anomalous from the start. "What Peter really liked was young boys. He was actually younger than me, but he didn't seem to realise it. It was a kind of mistake that he went with me at all. Of course, it was the most total disaster from the start. Being in love in that extreme way — being totally, physically obsessed by someone — is like having some dreadful disease. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

Lacy had the advantage, like Eric Hall before him, of inherited money, which allowed him for most of his life not to work. Because of this, according to Bacon, "he felt the futility of life all the more clearly". Lacy had also been a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain; and afterwards he became a test pilot for a while. "All these things obviously shatter your nerves," Bacon reflected, long after Lacy's death. "Most of the time Peter was terribly neurotic, even hysterical."

Part of the most intense period of their relationship (which Bacon characterised as "four years of continuous horror, with nothing but violent rows") was lived — again uncharacteristically for the artist — in the country, not far from Henley-on-Thames. Bacon recalled Lacy's invitation to come and live with him there: "Of course, he hated my painting right from the beginning, and he said, 'You can leave your painting and come and live with me.' And I said: 'What does living with you mean?' And he said: 'Well, you could live in a corner of my cottage on straw.' He wanted to have me chained to the wall. Peter was very kinky in all sorts of ways. He liked to have people watching as we had sex. But he was so neurotic that living together would never have worked." Even if Bacon did not accept the invitation to move in, he was a frequent visitor, and he even managed to get some work done by setting up a makeshift studio in a conservatory.

Bacon's need to paint, then,

had proved even stronger than his obsessive passion for Lacy. In 1953, Bacon completed 21 paintings, the most he had ever painted in a year. It was now that Bacon's obsession with the Pope theme took hold. *Study for Portrait* became the first in a series of eight fully recognisable portraits — caught us in successive frames on a film. This was the longest series Bacon had ever undertaken, and it confirmed his bent for working in variations on a theme, a practice that came naturally to someone of



Detail from *Pope I*, 1951: the series exposes Bacon's feelings about his lover

his obsessive temperament. The first portrait remains the most precisely descriptive, with its steady, mournful gaze, and, as the series continues, so the portraits grow freer, until the figure radiates a kind of wild hysteria. In this respect, it is tempting to think that as Bacon worked he transposed some of his feelings about his alarmingly neurotic lover, Lacy, whose surface calm would suddenly erupt into uncontrollable rage.

When questioned about this series, Bacon replied, jocularly, that he had nothing against Popes, and that he merely "wanted an excuse to use those colours". In retrospect, this sounds deliberately disingenuous, as if the artist wanted to avoid any explanation. It may be that he himself did not know why he was so obsessively drawn towards depictions of the Pope, but it

is likely he instinctively sought the upper hand in all his important relationships. He could be whipped and physically abused, but by his toughness and intelligence he kept ultimate control. With Lacy, he had lost it spectacularly. He could withstand the violence and the rows, the scenes which ended with him being beaten up, his clothes destroyed and his paintings slashed; there were sides of him he positively relished. But he was kept, mentally as well as physically, in thrall: being less in love, Lacy seemed stronger and freer, and the pangs of sexual jealousy tormented Bacon as intensely as any Furies he had known. Naturally promiscuous but above all devoted to his own destruction, Lacy kept always slightly out of reach. The *folie à deux* raged within his own pain and degradation. By the time of the first *Van Gogh* portraits, it had reached an inevitable impasse. But when Lacy left for Tangier, that did not stop Bacon from following him.

Tangier acted like a magnet for homosexuals during the 1950s. The Moroccan port offered not only acceptance but widespread acquiescence in matters of sexual preference. The sight of crowds of native men in brilliantly coloured jellabas strolling hand in hand together through the town would have been particu-

larly alluring to foreign homosexuals forced to hide their affections.

Bacon's hangout in Tangier was Dean's Bar. Dean was a mellifluous spoken black man of mysterious origins who seemed born to run a bar. For Lacy, Dean's had become a place of near enslavement; and marked the beginning of his last, rapid decline. Whatever his means when Bacon first took up with him in the early 1950s, they had dwindled to the point where he was obliged to "tinkle the ivories" in Dean's virtually day and night in order to eke out an existence.

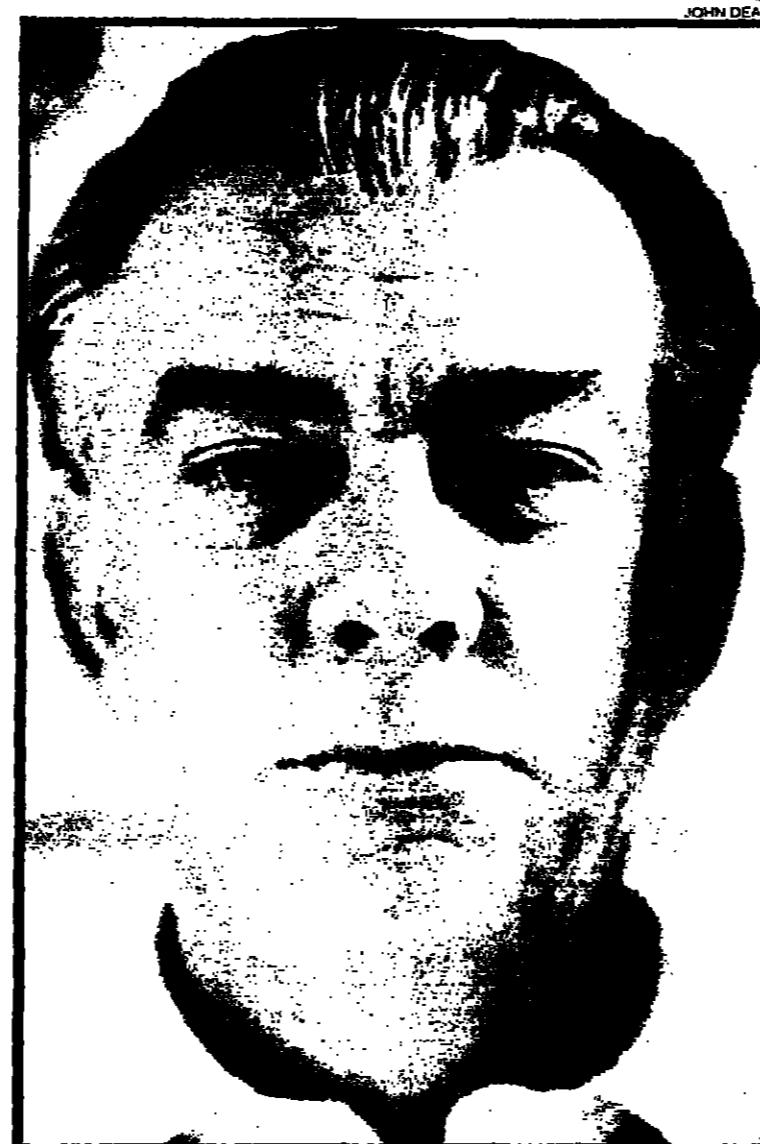
"Periodically Peter got very drunk," recalls David Herbert, a long-time resident of Tangier, "and on one of his benders he took a knife and slashed three-quarters of the paintings that Francis had been working on the previous six months. Francis took it quite calmly; in fact he seemed almost pleased." The British Consul-General in Tangier, Bryce Nairn, became worried because "Francis was frequently found by the police beaten up in some street in Tangier in the early hours of the morning." Herbert goes on, "Bryce complained to the chief of police and asked to have more police on duty in the darker alleys. A few weeks passed; the beatings continued. Then the chief called on Bryce and said, 'Pardon, Monsieur le Consul-Général, mais il n'y a rien à faire. Monsieur Bacon aime ça.'

Bacon brought back very little from his lengthy stays in Tangier: he abandoned numerous works in progress.

'He liked to have people watching as we had sex'

and either he or Lacy destroyed most of the others. But the whole atmosphere and the luminosity of Morocco marked him deeply. There can be no doubt that the explosion of strong colours in the *Van Gogh* series is at least partly attributable to Bacon's experience of the North African light (just as Van Gogh's own palette took on a new intensity after his arrival in Arles). In *Van Gogh in a Landscape*, Bacon has actually used a view of the countryside outside Tangier, which impressed him so much that it later became the sole subject of a wonderfully mysterious painting called *Landscape near Malabata*, Tangier. Dated 1963 and painted in London, this picture in fact had a deeply personal importance for the artist: it was in that landscape that Lacy had been buried.

The Tangier interlude and Bacon's affair with Lacy was to last for another couple of years. "Peter had been very tough when I first knew him. Then he fell for this Moroccan boy, and after he went off and lived in Tangier he lost that toughness. I think it had something to do with the Arab



JOHN DEAKIN



HELMAR LEPPI

The doomed and damaged Peter Lacy, left, dominated the younger Bacon, right, and his death continued to haunt the artist in his portraits

men. He had also always been the most terrible kind of drunk, but by this time he was completely out of control. The boy had left him and so on. Anyway he said he never wanted to see me again. Then one day he just telephoned and said, 'From now on, consider me dead.' And I was very upset because I had been deeply fond of him. And then much later, he sent this telegram asking me to go out and stay with him again in Tangier, and like a fool I went. Peter wasn't there when I arrived. But there was this Arab boy, sitting up in a fig tree in the courtyard, and he asked me whether he could pick the figs. I said yes, certainly he could. And in the end he climbed in through the window, and he was terribly good-looking.

"Then Peter came back and found us both in bed, and he got so absolutely mad he went round and broke every single thing in the place. I had to go out and try and spend the night on the beach.

Peter by that time was drinking three bottles of whisky a day, which no one can take. He was killing himself with drink. He set out to do it, like a suicide, and I think in the end his pancreas simply exploded. After that disastrous trip, I had no news of him until that exhibition at the Tate."

News of Lacy's death was among the telegrams that

arrived to congratulate the artist on the opening day of his Tate retrospective. Bacon had never come to terms with the self-destructive passion that had drawn him to Lacy nor with the latter's rejection of him; and now that he was dead, Bacon was inconsolable. He saw Lacy's death as a suicide, and he interpreted the fact that it had coincided with his opening as a deliberate extra punishment, as if he had to atone for the violence of his art in personal misfortune. The artist was convinced that the voracious Fury-like shapes on an orange ground that dominated the first room of the exhibition still pursued him.

In his grief, Bacon attempted several times to bring his

dead friend back to a kind of life through the act of portraying him. In both named and unnamed portraits, Lacy seems to be struggling to surface through the damaging smears of paint that blind an eye or excise an ear. Lacy himself had become part of the artist's own myth of guilt and retribution. He began to picture himself too, in his first acknowledged self-portraits, in a last spasm of raging pink flesh and black shadow before dissolution. Indeed, from this point in his development, when portraits of people became so central to his work, each portrait was painted as if it might be the last.

● Francis Bacon: *Annals of an Enigma* by Michael Peppiatt, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

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Sitting at the window in Bournemouth

Peter Stothard assesses the Tory party conference: a decent show, but lacking the necessary force

Bournemouth brings out the natural nostalgia of the Conservative Party. Blackpool and Brighton are alien places which Tories take over from time to time. Bournemouth is a delicate blue even when the Tories are not here. The promenades maintain that exotic seaside spirit which the local hero, Thomas Hardy, described more than a century ago. It is still the otherworldly town which Tess of the d'Urbervilles tried to hide from her problems. If John Major and Margaret Thatcher were to kiss anywhere, could any site be more suitable than this Disneyland of the 1870s, with its tropical trees, fanciful residences and magical attractions for the ill-starred? If the Conservatives had to choose anywhere to share defeat in the face, nowhere could be better than here among the comforting chintz and china.

The Tories this week have been polite and determined. They have made a decent attempt at brushing off one side the corruption charges against their colleagues and friends. They have been unexpectedly self-controlled for the most part on the European issues which are tearing their party apart. But every act of Victorian restraint has taken place in a cool, laboratory-like atmosphere. It is hard to believe that the hostile national mood is going to be changed from here.

It is hard to believe that the hostile national mood is going to be changed from here

In Hardy's "Mediterranean" lounging place on the English Channel, the problem of a European currency inevitably feels closer than it was by the cold seas of Blackpool at Labour's conference last week. In some representatives, the resulting emotion is a resigned deference. Malcolm Rifkind was heard yesterday with the sort of conference-hall respect that Conservative Foreign Secretaries used to be used to. The Prime Minister commanded rapt attention for his explanation of why a single currency should not be ruled out. But for others, on the fringe and on the fringe of the fringe, Britain's relationship with the Continent is a subject too corrosive to be contained. As night falls over the fairylights and domes, the anger, like the townscape, is more imposing still: there is a real sense of guilt - churned over and chanted about at every level - that the party is letting down the country in order to keep the Government alive.

Not even the first Mrs Thomas Hardy, the one who found *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* obscene and *Jude the Obscure* a scandal, could have found much fault with Tory discipline over the past two days. Norman Tebbit, who is still remembered fondly for his leadership at another difficult Bournemouth conference a decade ago, restricted his civil warfare to an assault on European Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan. Even the youth movement has lost the heart to make a fuss; its leaders find better prospects, as well as old Thatchertown friends, with Sir James Goldsmith. There is a Bournemouth programme, a string of stale Bournemouth jokes ("Labour will be for open government what stakeholding was to Dracula"; Ian Lang yesterday), but there is no passion, nothing that would make the ordinary Bournemouth holidaymakers smell politics if they did not already know that politics was here.

Bournemouth has long been a town which wealthy tourists visit year after year, where they meet

the dangers of excess dimmed into his head from last year, will try that kind can stop the breath or fire the blood.

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday like a husband trying to understand the marital relationship that he has lost. He was modest and reasonable. For a few moments he swept away the troublesome Cabinet and the unappreciative country. He told the representatives that they were "the heart and soul"; if he could have kissed every one of them he would have done.

On a much-discussed visit to Bournemouth in 1875, Hardy wrote a poem about his own newly difficult marriage. In "We Sat at the Window", he describes a miserable day when even the most "stolen strings" of the south coast were unbearable. "We were irked by the scene, by each other; yes," he wrote, in lines long pored over by biographers.

Later, working as his own literary spin-doctor, he revised the piece. "We were irked by the scene, by our own selves; yes," he wrote, in an attempt to persuade himself, it seems, that Mr and Mrs Hardy had separate problems rather than a problem that threatened their relationship. The original, however, turned out to be the more accurate portrait. Mr Major and his party can certainly put on a decent show for a few days in Bournemouth. Real unity, however, is far away. Only brute force and passion will fight Labour down from its heights of popularity. And brute force is no more part of Bournemouth's spirit this week than it has been in any other week of its history.

Aleksandr Lebed, who hopes to succeed Boris Yeltsin, threatens to name Russia's guilty men

There have been no hostilities in Chechnya for almost a month now. This is due to accords which I signed in Khasavyurt Ingushetia, with the chief of staff of the Chechen opposition armed forces, Asia Maskhadov. But it does not mean that the armed conflict is over.

The accords stipulate the signing of two more documents, which we have defined as the framework of relations on Chechnya's status and on the delineation of powers between Russia and Chechnya. The republic's status is thus far defined by the Russian constitution, according to which Chechnya is a member of the Russian Federation. Under the Khasavyurt agreements, its permanent status is to be determined by the year 2001. I think this was the correct decision. Such decisions must be adopted in cold blood, proceeding from international practices, laws, procedures and regulations - methods which have already proved their value.

Life will take its course over the next five years: the process of restoration and construction will begin, and the situation will be appraised soberly. Much will depend on how productively and constructively the Russian bodies of state power work.

Serious talks are needed on the

How I made peace with the Chechens

second provision of the Khasavyurt agreements, but it is unclear at present with whom they should be conducted. Russia does not recognise the separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, while the Chechen opposition does not recognise the official leader of the republic, Doku Zavgavayev.

A coalition government is needed to begin preparations for winter, restore gas and water supplies, mend the roofs and so forth, and to carry out detailed preparations for free elections. These elections are to be monitored by Russian and international observers. When a legitimate leader is elected, it will be possible to talk with him on any issue, including the distribution of powers between Russia and Chechnya.

Many hotheads think it will be easy to form a coalition government and to tackle the many problems, from restoration of the devastated economy to provision of

pensions and other benefits, creation of jobs and payment of wages. But things are not so easy as they think. I am sure, however, that the Chechens will be able to come to an agreement. Among them here are intellectuals and professional executives who are perfectly capable of handling these difficult but soluble problems of transition.

The Russian public's reaction to the Khasavyurt agreements differs. The reaction of politicians is negative rather than positive. I have virtually been accused of betraying Russian interests. The country's leadership has not given a clear-cut appraisal of this document. The Minister of Justice, Valentin Kovalev, has challenged its legal and political status. His position is rather strange, to put it mildly, as hostilities have been stopped, in keeping with the document, which allegedly "has no legal force".

Another thing also seems strange to me. Many people, including

their dead relatives and ruined homes. No military leader, even a genius, has ever won a war against the people. The war must be stopped resolutely with tough measures, and a political dialogue should begin. There is no other solution to this military conflict. That is why I reject all talk of Russia's integrity and indivisibility. Is it possible to ensure the integrity of Russia by killing hundreds and maiming thousands of people every day? And yet my critics claim that to stop the war by civilised methods is a threat to the country's integrity. On the contrary, it should be the other way around.

I am often asked if I know who was responsible for this war. Yes, I know all of them by name. I am also sure that this war has economic roots camouflaged in politics. Now is not the time to name these people, because it is still quite possible that the war will resume with fresh force and on an even larger scale. First, we must stop the slaughter and return to peaceful life. Only then will the prosecutors decide the degree of each perpetrator's responsibility. Whatever others may say, I am sure that the Chechen war is over for Russia.

The author is Secretary of President Yeltsin's Security Council.

An impoverished currency

Economic weakness in much of Europe means the euro is doomed

The argument for the gold standard was a simple one: it preserved the long-term value of money. Between 1799 and 1899, the purchasing power of the pound, convertible for most of the period into gold sovereigns, rose by 10 per cent between 1899 and 1997, with Britain having gone off the gold standard in 1931; it has fallen by 98 per cent. This decline has done great harm to Britain; it destroyed the value of monetary savings, it reduced investment and threw onto the mercies of the State many people who would otherwise have been able to look after themselves.

The euro is supposed to start on January 1, 1999, with at least six member countries, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

William Rees-Mogg

expand to the East, bringing in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and probably Slovakia. What sort of basis would such a Europe provide for a single currency?

The candidate nations of Eastern Europe have a combined population of 65 million, most of whom are poor. The present EU population is about 350 million. The East German population, which is still placing a heavy burden on the German economy, is only 17 million. The new candidate nations are therefore the equivalent of four East Germans, or roughly the same proportion to the population of the EU as East Germany was to Germany as a whole. The EU is not as rich as Germany, and has existing regional problems, including Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Southern Spain and Southern Italy, with a combined population of at least another 50 million. A quarter of the bigger EU will be poor.

Europe's population

Of the existing 15 members, only

Ireland is at a replacement level in live births. By the second quarter of the next century, Europe's population will be in absolute decline. As most of the continental pension schemes are unfunded, this large growth in the numbers of retired people will put pressure on budgets. Like the United States, but unlike the countries of Asia, Europe has inadequate savings rates, so many of these pensioners will not be able to look after themselves.

The euro suffers these prospective burdens of 100 million poor people and perhaps 100 million pensioners. Yet that is only the start of Europe's problems. The whole economy has for 20 years been steadily losing competitiveness in industrial exports relative to Asia and in high technology products relative to the United States. If one compares the three major industrial areas of the world, Asia, North America and Europe, it is Europe that is falling behind. In 15 years' time, industrial Germany could well have become the rust-bowl of Europe, and Europe could be the rust-bowl of the world.

Strong currencies have always

been based on strong economies. If one looks back on the modern history of strong currencies — the pound, the dollar, the yen, the mark itself — they have all been based on periods of great national economic strength. The pound was

the dominant currency when Britain was the workshop of the world; the dollar was dominant in the period of American industrial supremacy after the Second World War, the yen rose in strength when Japan was the leading power in world exports. If Europe continues to be a high-tax, high-cost, high-unemployment and low-competitiveness area, it is inconceivable that the euro will become a strong currency.

Yet the social and political forces which are resisting change in Europe, are extremely powerful.

There will also be specific currency crises. One of the most likely is the return to world energy shortages which caused the inflation of the 1970s. The Asian economy, of some three billion people, is expanding three or four times as fast as the Europeans. Asia will increasingly be in competition with Europe for all scarce raw materials, including oil. Even the present Middle Eastern anxieties have pushed the oil price back up to \$25 a barrel. The Middle East is likely to remain a political earthquake zone. A major oil shock is more likely than not to occur at sometime in the next ten to 15 years, and if the euro is the weakest big currency, the euro will suffer the worst inflation.

There is also the cultural question. Already the European Union,

which sometimes seems to be so

Germanic, is a political society in

which German speakers are in the

minority, and German Protestants

the elite group of German disci-

pline — in an even smaller minority.

Even if one thought that the centre of gravity of the new Europe would be German, which could be a mis-

take, it would not be Frankfurt, let

alone Berlin, but Munich. The exis-

ting 15 nations are in the ma-

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IMPERMANENT POLICY

Clarke and Heseltine must soon face the inevitable

The Prime Minister and his Foreign Secretary have devised a line on the single currency that is guiding them through a turbulent week in Bournemouth. It is a line that can probably hold for the next few months as well. But they are deluding themselves if they believe that it can last until the general election and beyond.

The "wait and see" policy has merits beyond those outlined by John Major and Malcolm Rifkind yesterday. As well as giving Britain's voice greater weight at the European meetings that determine the machinery of the single currency, it also increases the prospect of this country forming alliances with others to delay or derail EMU. This is an advantage at which British politicians can only hint; if they admitted it outright, they would sabotage their own plans.

Mr Major's comments yesterday about the importance, even to the "out" countries, of EMU being a success lead naturally to the idea that Britain should play an active part in preventing a single currency from happening if it looks as if the convergence criteria are being fudged. Not so long ago, the British position was that, if other member states wanted to go ahead, this country should not obstruct them.

But, useful as this equivocal policy may have proved at the negotiating tables of Brussels, it can be no more than an interim measure. And it is not true to suggest, as both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary did yesterday, that if Britain ruled out joining the first wave of a single currency, it would have to leave the table. This country might have less influence on certain decisions about how the currency is run. But it would have just as much right to be heard on the big issues, since the "outs" will be seriously affected by the single currency too.

By next spring, the national interest in ruling out membership will be marginal; all the big decisions will have been taken. But the national interest in making a decision

will be huge. The most important issue facing voters at the next general election will be whether or not Britain should make this epic move of uniting itself economically with other countries. It is simply incredible that either party should by then profess itself to be agnostic, particularly since the new government will have to bring in legislation within months of winning office if it wants to join the first wave.

It is also impossible to conceive of a Conservative government (and probably even Labour one) taking that momentous step. As this week in Bournemouth has shown, the vast majority of the party is viscerally opposed to the single currency. So are most Tory MPs; and their views are likely to be hardened by the new intake. Few in the present Cabinet would enthusiastically sign up to EMU.

Meanwhile, as poll after poll has shown, the country is overwhelmingly hostile to a single currency. In every other nation, bar one, that wants to join, voters are behind the project. They are willing, if a little reluctantly, to make sacrifices in pursuit of what they perceive to be a greater good. In Italy, they have even agreed to pay a special tax to meet the Maastricht criteria. Germany is the exception, but the sheer determination of Chancellor Kohl, and voters' desire for political union, may outweigh their sensibilities about giving up the mark.

It is hard to see any British Prime Minister being able to turn opinion in this country round in time to win a referendum and join in 1999. These are the realities that both Mr Major and Mr Blair must face. Most important, it is the reality that Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine must face. These two men are the obstacles to Mr Major setting out a sensible position for a fifth term. Whatever their personal wishes, they must be made to realise that Britain is simply not going to join EMU in 1999. They cannot be allowed to hold their party, its government and the national interest hostage.

RUSSIAN HEIR PRESUMPTIVE

Lebed has a rough and tangled maze to his goal

Aleksandr Lebed has returned from Nato to a chorus of recriminations in Moscow. Politicians, newspaper editorials and television commentators remarked acidly that he had failed to make clear Russia's opposition to Nato enlargement, that he preferred to impress his hosts than defend his country's interests and that he was seduced by the glitter and sparkle of his first visit to the West. The fact that the former general made a good impression in Brussels has only given an edge to such carping. The battle for Mr Yeltsin's succession has now begun in earnest. And the name of the game in Moscow is: get Lebed.

The charismatic secretary of Mr Yeltsin's Security Council is an outsider, a man who stormed his way to power by coming third in the presidential election in June. He has little understanding of politics, and little time for the niceties of democracy. With bluff military impatience, he believes there are urgent jobs to be done and these are being held up by the Byzantine intrigue that marks the shifting alliances in the Kremlin. Unlike the two other main contenders for Mr Yeltsin's job, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, Mr Lebed has no inhibitions about declaring his hand. He has called on the President to step down. He has seized every chance to air his views. He has verged on rank disloyalty to the President and Government he serves.

Moscow's apparatchiks have closed ranks against him, dismissing his achievement in negotiating a Chechen ceasefire as a surrender. Their accusations are fuelled partly by jealousy — he succeeded where the

corrupt and incompetent former Defence Minister failed — and in part by reluctance to admit that Russia has been worsted. But as Mr Lebed writes on the opposite page today, Russians soldiers and mothers have saluted him while the political establishment has accused him of virtual betrayal. He asks what other solution the politicians propose, and with a clear undertone of menace promises to reveal the names of all those responsible for the slaughter in the first place.

His decision to put his case in *The Times* is a clear appeal for world backing as a way of outflanking those who would sabotage the Chechen deal in order to derail his ambitions. The West, however, will be as cautious of endorsing him as his Moscow rivals. For Mr Lebed is still an unknown quantity. Beyond the two vital issues where he can exploit his experience to embarrass the Government — the Chechen war and military reform — he has given little indication of his wider programme or philosophy. He is indiscriminate in his choice of allies and ambiguous even on such issues as Nato enlargement. He wants a snap election, before the glow of the Chechen deal fades. The Kremlin, under the sure hand of Anatoli Chubais, is playing a longer game, ready to employ the same campaign tactics for Mr Chernomyrdin that worked so successfully for Mr Yeltsin. As an outsider, Mr Lebed presents a challenge to entrenched interests that have already attempted to link him to corruption scandals. The gravel-voiced general may find the political terrain as rough as the military campaigns in Moldova and Chechnya.

LIVE POETS' SOCIETY

The royal road into English is by other men's verse

Today is National Poetry Day. Over Britain poetry is tuning up. Supermarkets offer service with a spondolee, barmaids pull an anapause with their pints. Commuters curse traffic-jams in couplets and businessmen bargain in blank verse. The nation is a-swift with the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling — or insipid sentiment.

For those already initiated in the rhymers' art, the encouragement of amateur poets is simply a swing from bad to worse. Dionysian dabblers should not be indulged, some say. But the distinction between high and low culture has ever been blurred. Was it not rumoured in the sacred groves that Bob Dylan might be the recipient of a Nobel Prize this year? The context of poetry has never been a purely academic one.

Poetry is an integral part of our modern environment, from the lyrics of pop songs to a Christmas card's couplets, from the rhythms of rap to the jingles of a television advertisement. It is estimated that more than half the adults in Britain have attempted to pen poetry at some point in their lives. Their efforts should be applauded, not despised. Poetry, as Robert Frost once observed, is a way of taking life by the throat. Those who write it directly confront their most solemn ideas and most heartfelt emotions. In reading it many find contentment and solace, discovering an expression of shared ideas. In a world of increasing alienation, thronged with ever

more therapists, this is something to be encouraged, not shunned.

This year, National Poetry Day focuses particularly on the young. Poetry packs have been sent out to every school in the country in an attempt to encourage all schoolchildren to write, learn or perform a poem. To do this is to put them in touch with one of our most important national exports — the English language.

Poetry has famously been described as "the best words in the best order". To write it is to practise an elegance and a precision of expression, lamentably lacking in the modern world. To learn it is to carry in one's head one of our richest cultural resources. A poem learnt is a poem retained — its rhythms and cadences can inform and enrich one's own language throughout life.

And in this soundbitten age, when time is one of our most valuable commodities, to read a poem is to enjoy a fullness of expression in one of its briefest and most concentrated forms.

In sponsorship of this year's National Poetry Day, the Forward Poetry Trust has joined forces with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Keats's poetry of the earth is, indeed, not yet dead. The WWF considers that the best way of developing environmental concern in children is to encourage them to explore the issue through verse. Our cultural environment is as integral to our well-being as our physical surroundings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Wakeham warns on press excess

From Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission

Sir, The events of the last few days (reports, October 8, 9) have thrown into sharp focus a matter that has been worrying me for some time. Although these events concern primarily members and former members of the Royal Family, the key issue they raise — invasion of privacy and the use of public-interest defence by newspapers — have wider ramifications.

The effectiveness of self-regulation

depends on two factors: first, public credibility; second, sound editorial judgment about how any story relates to the letter and to the spirit of the industry's own Code of Practice. That effectiveness — which has been growing in stature — is now in danger of being undermined because a stream of injurious stories centring on the private lives of public individuals, backed up only by the flimsiest of public-interest defences, has bewildered a public which rightly asks why the Press Complaints Commission does not act to stop it.

The commission is an organisation which adjudicates on complaints only after thorough investigation. But first there has to be a complaint. Only then can the process begin. In a number of cases recently the people involved have chosen not to complain. Of particular concern in recent events must, of course, be the children of those involved: when a story breaks they are the first to suffer. I can understand — as could any parent — why, in these circumstances, those individuals are reluctant to complain and perhaps prolong the suffering through the investigation.

But this is unfortunate because it might lead some newspapers to believe that, simply because one of those involved in a story fails to complain, they have *carte blanche* to invade their privacy without any defence of public interest.

There are many issues arising from this — and they are not just for the press, but for public figures as well. They too should understand that we will always back accurate reporting whilst a genuine matter of public interest is at stake. And as I have said before, those who seek the limelight of publicity should always be prepared when its glare is returned, sometimes harshly.

In the light of my concerns, I believe we need now to examine all these issues carefully but urgently to see what lessons can be learned. In the meantime newspapers should beware that unjustified reporting of the private lives of public individuals will cast doubt on the system of self-regulation which has, in my view, achieved notable successes over the past few years. They should remember, too, that the PCC has powers to raise its own complaints when it needs to — and will not hesitate to use them.

Nobody would benefit from statutory controls — neither public, whose complaints we deal with (free of charge) in their hundreds every month, nor industry, which would find itself dragged into a perpetual quagmire of litigation.

I therefore trust all those who have an interest in these issues will co-operate with me and with the commission as we chart the way forward in strengthening self-regulation in this most difficult — but critical — of areas. I have always been the first to praise the industry which has made tremendous strides in the last few years in raising standards. I know they will rise to this new challenge.

Yours faithfully,
WAKEHAM, Chairman,
Press Complaints Commission,
1 Salsbury Square, EC4.
October 9.

Battle of Towton

From Mr Geoffrey Richardson

Sir, I was most interested to read today of the discovery near Tadcaster of a mass grave from the Wars of the Roses. However, the Battle of Towton, which was fought on Palm Sunday of 1461, ended in complete victory for the Yorkist army, led by Edward IV, not "the Lancastrian forces", as stated. In addition, "the six-hour battle" described actually lasted for ten hours, with the pursuit of the defeated Lancastrians afterwards continuing through much of the night.

The location of the skeletons indicates that they are of fleeing survivors from the battle who were caught en route to the succour offered by the walls of York. The same sad fate befell many more of the Red Rose army along the Tadcaster road, which, according to contemporary reports, was "lined with the corpses of the slain".

Sincerely,
G. RICHARDSON (Author,
The Hollow Crown, a history of the battles of the Wars of the Roses, Rylands, Moorland Crescent, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, October 9).

Dim view

From Mr Alastair Cuthbertson

Sir, Recent touring holiday experience leads me to suspect a conspiracy among hoteliers to discourage clients from reading in bed. Why such inadequate bedside lighting?

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CUTHERBERTSON,
Applecross, Shootersway Lane,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Jack Straw's proposals for tackling drug-related crime

From Ms Jo Gudiner

Sir, The Labour Party's announcement of their proposal to conduct drug tests on some young criminals report and leading article, October 4 sounds like a tough measure for a tough problem.

However, work done by the Industrial Society with young offenders prior to their release shows that they would like to see action taken earlier on the causes of crime.

These young men, many of them experienced criminals by the age of 17 and 18, almost without exception suggest one solution: the way to reduce crime is to compensate for the lack of stable families and communities by providing children, from the age of 10, with challenging opportunities and safe environments where they can develop skills and positive attitudes. If young people don't turn to drugs they are far less likely to turn to crime.

Policymakers would do well to involve those with recent and direct experience when developing proposals to tackle crime.

Yours faithfully,

DANNY KUSHLICK
(Co-ordinator,
Transform
(The campaign to transform
drug policy and legislation),
Box 59, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1.
October 4.

From Mr Danny Kushlick

Sir, Your leading article, "Labour's test", criticises Jack Straw's plans for drug offenders for not addressing the supply side of the drugs market.

I have worked for a number of years with drug-using offenders on court orders and in prison. My experience is that those who want to make significant changes in their lives and to stop offending do so. Those who do not continue to offend. Both groups do this regardless of the threat of imprisonment.

The significant factor in determining

a desire to change is the recognition that there is something worth changing for — that there is some hope. Change cannot be enforced by

the criminal justice system, it comes from within. Most problematic drug use is related to unemployment, poverty and despair.

My conclusion is that the only way to produce significant change for offenders and non-users is to legalise all drugs. Problematic users offend in order to pay the high price of illicit drugs. The high price of drugs is determined by a demand-led market with a limited supply set by organised crime. Crime associated with the tobacco market is negligible even though most users are dependent addicts.

Politicians who talk about law and order should recognise that prohibition creates huge opportunities for organised crime. If they really want to reduce crime they should legalise and regulate the drugs market at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

DANNY KUSHLICK
(Co-ordinator,
Transform
(The campaign to transform
drug policy and legislation),
Box 59, 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1.
October 4.

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, While supporting the Shadow Home Secretary's advocacy of court-ordered treatment for drug-addicted offenders, your leading article criticises Labour's opposition to Michael Howard's proposals "to introduce minimum sentences for professional drug dealers".

However, the Home Secretary's proposed seven-year minimum sentences for repeat drug dealers would apply not only to professional suppliers but also to addicts selling small amounts to friends to finance their own drug habit. Many of them are exactly the sort of offender for whom court-ordered drug treatment can succeed; yet minimum sentences would prohibit courts from using this humane and cost-effective option.

Minimum prison terms could also damage intelligence-gathering into drug-trafficking operations. Small-scale user-dealers would have less incentive to co-operate in helping the police to build a case against major traffickers if a seven-year minimum sentence prevented courts from reflecting this co-operation in a reduced sentence.

There is a way forward though.

Only last week Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, in a report on local police drug strategies, raised the possibility of redirecting the proceeds of seized assets into under-resourced treatment and rehabilitation services.

The Home Office, Police Research Group and the National Audit Office

Defining sleaze in modern politics

From Mr David Butler

Sir, There are occasions when the House of Commons can do most for its own authority by abjuring its powers. The key step in curing the Eatwell election of the 19th century was the 1870 Act which transferred jurisdiction over contested elections from a select committee to the High Court.

The House thereby escaped the widespread suspicion of collusive fixing and the courts speedily established rules and standards about corrupt electioneering which became generally accepted. Could not the House consider this example in dealing with its current ethical problems (letters, October 3, 4, 5, 7, 8)?

Yours,

DAVID BUTLER,
Nuffield College, Oxford.
October 8.

From Mr R. H. Keys

Sir, Mr G. E. Taylor (letter, October 7) describes Ian Greer Associates disparagingly as "serving whoever pays them the most".

A more accurate and less inflammatory analogy would be with lawyers. They too will fight for any client who pays them. They too rarely pretend to

support ... clients out of conviction". That is their value. At their best they do a well a job that they are paid to do. Few of us believe that there is anything discreditable about this.

The position of parliamentary lobbyists is exactly the same and there is no reason why Lady Turner should feel ashamed of her connection with them.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT KEYS,
11 Finchley Avenue,
Chelmsford, Essex.

From Mr Ian McGaw

Sir, I had the privilege to be the Conservative candidate at St Helens in the 1970 general election. When the election was announced I — and I expect every other candidate — received a letter from a well known shoemaker offering a pair of their shoes to help in the mule that we were going to cover during the campaign.

My agent advised that I could not accept the offer as it might prejudice my future independence!

Yours faithfully,
IAN McGAW,
6 Laud's Close,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
October 9.

Easier' A levels

From Captain C. P. R. Belton, RN

Sir, Whether A levels are more or less difficult (report, October 4) I am well past knowing or caring; but as my younger son's two-week

OBITUARIES

Roy Lewis, author and former Commonwealth Correspondent of *The Times*. Died yesterday aged 76. He was born on November 6, 1919.

In his day Roy Lewis was one of the best informed and most perceptive journalists writing about Commonwealth and African affairs. He combined a sympathetic understanding of what, in the twilight of empire, both colonial officials and nationalist politicians were trying to do, with a nice scepticism about their eventual success in doing it.

He was often right when others were wrong, notably at *The Times* where he arrived from *The Economist* as Commonwealth Correspondent in 1961. When, in 1969 during the Nigeria-Biafra crisis, though the paper's acknowledged Africa expert, he was sidelined and the coverage of the civil war handed to the young Winston S. Churchill later to become a Lancashire MP, Lewis argued against the line taken by the newcomer and supported in leading articles by the then Editor of *The Times*, William Rees-Mogg. This was that the Nigerian Government was evil and bullying and that the Nigerian federation was doomed to collapse. Lewis's judgment was vindicated when it was in fact Biafra which collapsed, to be subsumed again into the federation.

Lewis was not long afterwards to be in conflict with his Editor again, when he took part in the famous "revolt of the Black Friars" in the following year. He was one of 29 signatories to a letter to the Editor in which a powerful group consisting of some of the paper's most distinguished journalists deplored what they saw as a lowering of editorial standards. The protest —

and the somewhat bland letter which expressed it — actually went deeper than that. With the euphoria of the early years of the Thomson ownership of the paper fading, many older *Times* men were inclined to blame the deepening loss of confidence and direction on what they saw as the introduction of a number of brash newcomers from *The Sunday Times* and the consequent development of a more abrasive, less courteous, conduct of office life.

Like most such protests it achieved little in practical terms, satisfying though it was to those who subscribed to it. But it was an interesting item along the road *The Times* was treading in those days as it tried to shrug off its traditions and come to terms with the contemporary world. In the event, Lewis's own career on the paper had not much further to run. He retired in 1971, but continued to be a welcome contributor for a number of years after that.

But he had many other strings to his bow. He had already written a variety of books ranging from sociological, biographical and political studies to a series of accomplished novels, and this authorship continued after 1971. But perhaps the finest achievement of his later years was the volumes of poetry he printed on his own press.

Ernest Michael Roy Lewis was the son of Ernest Isaac Lewis, an industrial chemist and pioneer of business education in schools. He was educated at King Edward VI's School, Birmingham, and University College, Oxford. After a year at the London School of Economics and another at Chatham House, he joined the staff of *The Statist*.

Lewis married Christine May Tew in 1938. He and his bride immediately decided that, as the world was obviously soon to



change for the worse, if they were to see anything of it, they had better do so straight away. With only the minimum of funds they took passage for the Antipodes via the Panama Canal and Pitcairn Islands. On arrival in Australia, they supported themselves by freelance work until Lewis was adopted as a member of the kitchen cabinet of the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Bertram Stevens. It was there that the Second World War caught up with him.

Wars, as Lewis was often to remark, are liable to cast people in

the oddest roles. His was to become a sort of semi-official purchasing officer in India for the Chinese Government. Stevens had been appointed Australian representative on the Eastern Group Supply Council with its headquarters in Delhi, and it took Lewis with him. Lewis travelled widely in the area east of Suez where the council operated, but its work inevitably came to an end when Japan entered the war.

A brief interlude in the Indian cavalry ended with Lewis joining the Peking Syndicate, a large

commercial firm which had moved to Chungking, the wartime capital of China. He now became the accredited agent of the Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek. As such, he was empowered to buy anything useful to the nationalist war effort — weapons, coal, gold, whisky, and, on one occasion, three million uniforms — and arrange for the stuff to be flown over "The Hump", the great mountain range between Assam and China.

Lewis returned to England in 1946, and as well as holding jobs on a number of ephemeral publica-

tions, turned to authorship. Three books, *Shall I Empire?* (1949), *The English Middle Classes* (1949) and *Professional People* (1953), written in conjunction with Angus Maude, established his reputation. But actually more useful to his future career was a commission to write a book, which never got published, on pest control in Africa. This took him all over the African continent and gave him a (literally) grassroots knowledge of its agricultural — and so of its political — problems, which probably no other English journalist possessed at that time.

The Colonial Office commissioned him to write a handbook on Sierra Leone, which appeared in 1954. In that year, too, Geoffrey Crowther persuaded him to start writing for *The Economist* where, except for a year as editor of *The New Commonwealth*, he remained until he joined *The Times* in 1961.

It was as a member of the staff of *The Economist* that Lewis displayed his full versatility, writing not only on his specialised subjects but also on education, local government, and politics, as well as editing its supplements. As its Defence Correspondent Lewis also covered the Suez operation of 1956 on the spot.

He was *The Economist's* Washington Correspondent when *The Times* lured him back to London to take over the Commonwealth and African responsibilities which had till then been the charge of the veteran war correspondent Oliver Woods. Here, too, Lewis was very far from being the desk-bound leader writer type. He covered the wars in the Congo and in Nigeria, and UDI in Rhodesia.

After he retired in 1971, he continued to contribute to the paper for another ten years. His books included *The Boss* (1958) a study of

British businessmen, written with Rosemary Smart; *The British in Africa* (1971), a study of Enoch Powell (a fellow scholar at King Edward's); in 1979 and a book about the police in 1976.

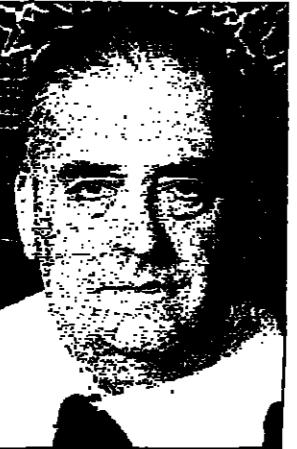
In tandem with his non-fiction he had a prolific career as a novelist, with a particular bent for fantasy, science fiction and the thriller. His titles never sold heavily in this country but he was immensely popular on the Continent. In particular *The Evolution Man* (1968) was a runaway bestseller in Italy and had a great success in France, too, where it was translated by Vercors. It was dramatised in French and a film cartoon was made of it in Czechoslovakia.

His most recent essays in the fantasy genre were *A Walk with Mr Gladstone* (1991) which described an imaginary meeting with the great Liberal statesman in the context of his preoccupation with prostitutes. *Cock of the Walk* (1995) was a similar exercise which dealt with reaction to the establishment of Britain's first Roman Catholic archbishop since the Reformation, Cardinal Wiseman, in 1850.

But perhaps as close to Lewis's heart as any of these was the series of illustrated poems, by poets known and unknown, which he produced on his hand-press. These, published under the imprint The Keepsake Press, are models of what a skilled amateur printer can turn out. Among the poets he printed were names like Peter Redgrove, Charles Causley, Gavin Ewart, John Press and Vernon Scannell. He later gave the output of his press to Reading University Library.

Lewis's wife Christine died in 1993. He is survived by his two daughters.

LORD FINSBERG



Lord Finsberg, MBE, former Conservative MP and junior minister, died on October 8 aged 70. He was born on June 13, 1926.

THE death of Lord Finsberg in Stockholm has deprived politics of almost the last of its prominent Young Conservatives. As Geoffrey Finsberg, he was chairman of the Hampstead Young Conservatives at the age of 22, during a period in which that constituency could boast of an army of political footsoldiers nearly 1,000-strong. The Young Conservative Organisation, resurrected by Lord Woolton, was then very much in its prime.

Geoffrey Finsberg, who was educated at City of London School, was Jewish in a constituency where the Jewish population made up a third of the electorate. He was a solid young man, devoted to political activity. The YCs met each Tuesday in a dingy office covered with coloured posters of such luminaries as Oliver Lynton and "Captain" Macmillan. A dedicated disciple of Lord Woolton, Finsberg wanted, like his mentor, to build 300,000 houses a year; most of his colleagues were frankly

more interested in tennis, badminton and girls.

Finsberg was determined not only to become national chairman of the Young Conservatives, then some 100,000-strong (which he duly did, collecting the regulation MBE in the process), but also to get into Parliament. To that end, he conspired, along with many others, to rid Hampstead of its sitting MP, Charles Challen, and to replace him with Henry Brooke, later to become a controversial Home Secretary in Harold Macmillan's Government. Finsberg was

saw himself in the direct line of succession and eventually was elected MP for Hampstead in 1970. (He retired — though by now the seat was Highgate and Hampstead — in 1992, and was promptly created a life peer.)

He never progressed beyond the ranks of junior minister at the Departments of Health and Social Security and Environment (though these two posts were enough to bring him his knighthood in 1984). This could have been because he lacked excitement. His public persona was dull; in private, he could be an amusing companion. But he was an able administrator. He had also been a "Bevin Boy" — one of those directed to work down the coalmines during the Second World War.

Geoffrey Finsberg's career, which had languished somewhat in office, gained a new lease of life when he was appointed to the Conservative delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. In 1991, he was elected president of the Assembly of the Council of Europe over which he presided with the aplomb that he had shown forty years before in Hamp-

stead. He was one of nature's chairmen, brisk in the conduct of business.

Finsberg's death leaves only Peter Walker, now Lord Waller of Worcester, and Sir William van Straubenzee who can

trace their political careers back to the beginnings of the Young Conservative movement.

Finsberg took advantage of the ladder of opportunity that Lord Woolton had let down into the tennis-playing suburbs of Britain to climb, via the Commons, into the Lords.

Yet the sadness is that Finsberg would hardly recognise today's YCs, for the movement has shrunk to around 3,000 and is dominated by Scots youths with a taste for right-wing politics and Tartan Ale. In Finsberg's day the purpose of the YCs was to win office for the Tories — and he, as a former leader of Camden Council as well as being an MP, was a walking advertisement for their ethos and energy.

Geoffrey Finsberg was twice married: first to Pamela Hill, a comrade in arms in Hampstead, and after her death in 1989 to Elizabeth Wright. There were no children.

Nigel Fisher was the son of Commander Sir Thomas Fisher and the stepson of Sir Geoffrey Shakespeare, a former Liberal and then Liberal National MP, to whom he was greatly attached.

He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He served in the war in the Welsh Guards and, in an Army career of exceptional gallantry, he was mentioned in despatches in 1940 and was awarded the Military Cross in 1945.

He contested Chislehurst in the 1945 general election but lost the seat in the Labour avalanche of that year. In 1950 he was elected MP for Hitchin. In 1955, having run into some trouble with the Hitchin association over his divorce from his first wife, he was elected for the new constituency of Surbiton, which was to be renamed Kingston upon Thames in 1974.

Fisher was on the liberal wing of the Conservative Party. He became an intimate friend of Iain Macleod and

SIR NIGEL FISHER



note which read: "As you will see, I have written to *The Times*. I have also written to Willy [Whitelaw] and said that if you go, I go. And so I will." Fisher eventually gained a vote of confidence from his constituency, but he did not receive any open support, which he had expected, from Edward Heath as leader of the Conservative Party.

He was not asked to serve in the Heath Government of 1970 but as a much-liked man he became an influential backbencher and a member of the 1972 Executive Committee. He also had a number of friends on the other side of the House.

In 1935 Fisher married Lady Gloria Vaughan, eldest daughter of the 7th Earl of Lisburne. The marriage was dissolved in 1952. In 1956 he married Mrs Patricia Ford, who had briefly sat in the House of Commons, 1953-55, in succession to her father, Sir Walter Smiles, who was drowned in the Belfast ferry disaster of 1953.

Fisher was an able writer and in 1973 produced the first biography of Iain Macleod. The book was launched at No 11 Downing Street and, with typical generosity, Fisher gave both his advance and royalties to Macleod's widow Eve, who had been left in straitened circumstances. He later, in 1977, published an interesting study called *The Tory Leaders* and in 1983 produced a biographical portrait of Harold Macmillan, long since superseded by Alistair Horne's two-volume official work.

Fisher was a figure of medium height, lean and spry. As a young man he had been startlingly good-looking. He had an engaging smile and an infectious laugh. He was a man of both moral and physical courage. The ultimate truth was that he was probably too nice — and certainly too open-minded — to succeed in politics.

His second wife died last year and he himself had for some time been under professional care. He is survived by a son and a daughter — the former of whom is a Labour MP and Opposition spokesman on the Arts.

fully supported the rapid granting of independence to Britain's African colonies, which was the main feature of the latter's tenure of office as Colonial Secretary.

He himself was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies in 1962 and, when the Colonial Office and the Commonwealth Relations Office were temporarily merged between 1963 and 1964, with Duncan Sandys as Secretary of State, he remained an Under-Secretary in the combined department.

He developed close friendships with many of the new African leaders, including Hastings Banda, Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere. He first visited the Caribbean in the early 1950s and gained personal knowledge of every former British colony in the area. His familiarity with the Caribbean and his multitude of West Indian friends led him to oppose the original Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962.

When the West Indian Federation collapsed in 1962, after Jamaica decided to withdraw from it as a result of a referendum, to be followed shortly afterwards by Trinidad, Fisher was given the unhappy task of trying to salvage a smaller federation centred on Barbados and including the Leeward and Windward Islands. Unhappily, Barbados decided to opt for independence as well and his negotiations came to nothing.

In August 1964 he was offered and accepted the post of British High Commissioner in Kenya. He made, as he thought, his last speech in the House of Commons on July 29, 1964. During the night he decided that he could not bear to leave the Commons, and his wife Paisie went the following day to see Duncan Sandys as he reluctantly agreed to rescind the appointment, which was shortly to be made public, having been agreed with the Government of Kenya. He was knighted in 1964.

In opposition, after Harold Wilson's victory of 1964, Fisher remained a frontbench spokesman for Colonial and Commonwealth Affairs and in 1970, with typical generosity, Fisher gave both his advance and royalties to Macleod's widow Eve, who had been left in straitened circumstances. He later, in 1977, published an interesting study called *The Tory Leaders* and in 1983 produced a biographical portrait of Harold Macmillan, long since superseded by Alistair Horne's two-volume official work.

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STOLL THEATRE

"PORGY AND BESS"

The first presentation in London of what is indeed a folk opera (complete with shanties, spirituals, street vendors' calls and dances), which took place last night with an all-Negro cast, could not fail to arouse enormous interest. Whether with all its high-powered theatrical impetus it touched the emotions or yielded the authentic artistic pleasure is another matter. The drama, taken from the novel of Dubois Heyward, wins sympathy for the Negro community, authentically and engagingly presented therein, but the composer is not equal to the task of matching it with worthy music. Popular music of restaurant level is the lowest common denominator of Vienna operetta and is quite unequal to depicting, for instance, Porgy's lament over his lost love, and there was an entracte that sank into an abyss of hardly credible banality. Yet when Gershwin writes in the Negro-folk idiom strength flows into his work,

Bess, the weak but affectionate cause of the quarrels in Charleston brought to life by Miss Leontyne Price. There is Crown, the giant of a man, frighteningly impersonated by Mr. John McCurry. Then there are the sharply drawn personalities of Maria, the leader of the community, whose moral authority Miss Georgia Burke makes credible, and of the odious Sportin' Life made doubly odious by Mr. Cab Calloway's skill. The volatile moods of the negro, his generosity, his humour, his religion, his proneness to violence, provide plenty of entertainment from the sentimental to the amusing. The relation of these variegated dramatic tableaux to the music is like that in a musical lingua franca is used to enhance theatrical situations. It rather looks as though American composers are attempting an indigenous opera from that point of view. European experience is that though it is feasible in theory it does not work in practice, which demands a strong and individual, not a trite and derivative, music.

ON THIS DAY

October 10, 1952

"PORGY AND BESS"

The arrival of this negro folk opera in London was a major theatrical occasion. Critics voiced reservations, but a first-night audience, estimated at 2,600, "cheered it to the echo."

and with strength both emotion and beauty — the dreadful "Where's my Bess" is immediately succeeded by the sincere and moving "I'm on my way." Being derived from a novel, the libretto is inevitably episodic, yet the music is almost continuous, the action clear, and the numerous residents of Catfish Row are soon sharply enough characterized. There is Porgy, the crippled beggar, vividly acted and sung by Mr. William Warfield, who has a warm baritone voice of ingratiating quality. There is

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NEWS

Tories clear decks for election

■ Ministers cleared the decks ready for the general election by pruning controversial measures from the next parliamentary session to leave only populist Bills aimed at winning the votes of the "hardworking classes".

Expensive and contentious legislation, such as the introduction of identity cards and new rules on financing elderly people in nursing home, has been dropped. Instead, the Government will concentrate on a crackdown on violent crime, benefit fraud and discipline in schools..... Page 1, 8, 9

Prince consoles parents of Dunblane

■ The Prince of Wales spent an hour in private with the grieving parents of Dunblane after attending a memorial service which took the shattered town one further step out of its darkness. He met the parents in a church hall..... Page 1

Press conduct

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, called for an urgent review of newspaper conduct after the *Sun* was hoaxed into publishing faked pictures of Diana, Princess of Wales..... Page 1

BSE tests plan

A European expert cast doubts on British forecasts that mad cow disease would die out soon and called for long-term tests using monkeys..... Page 2

Bright and beautiful

The choir of a 12th-century Norfolk parish church has been split after members resigned in protest at having to sing in praise of jet planes refuelling at the harvest festival..... Page 3

Students defiant

Students at The Queen's University of Belfast said that they would abandon their studies if sectarian violence returned to Northern Ireland..... Page 5

High life

A nanny, a third family car and a well-stocked wine cellar are the status symbols of Britain's highest earners..... Page 6

Nobel prizewinner

The discovery of a form of carbon shaped like a football won a Nobel prize for Professor Harry Kroto of Sussex University. He shares the prize with two American colleagues..... Page 7

Scotland beat the Estonian ghost XI

■ The opposition never stood a chance, principally because they refused to take part. At the Kadriorg Stadium in Tallinn, Estonia, Scotland trooped out and prepared for a World Cup qualifier. But their opponents, protesting over a change in the kick-off time, were still in their training camp. Scotland expect to be awarded the match by a nominal 3-0..... Page 1



Cadinne McEvoy, the 4-year-old from Northern Ireland who was kidnapped from a Florida hotel, with her parents at a press conference

BUSINESS

Economy: Kenneth Clarke continued to ignore the Bank of England's warnings that interest rates ought to be raised, according to the minutes of the monetary meeting held on September 4..... Page 25

Rover is close to securing a government subsidy of around £60 million to build an engine plant in the Midlands..... Page 25

Inland Revenue: The taxman is "incompetent, insensitive and indifferent", while Customs officials are often overbearing and heavy-handed, an independent watchdog body has claimed..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 26.5 to 401.0. Sterling rose from 86.9 to 87.1 after a rise from \$1.5631 to \$1.5645 and from DM2.3862 to DM2.3909..... Page 28

Silence is golden

French journalists who face losing their long-established tax perks have hit back at politicians where it hurts them most by threatening not to report a word they say..... Page 14

Dole fights back

As Al Gore and Jack Kemp prepared for a vice-presidential debate, Bob Dole unleashed his first really harsh attacks on Bill Clinton's character..... Page 16

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TIME

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South West 702
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North East 706
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Wales 708
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Motorways 723
M25 London Orbital only 724

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AA ROADWATCH

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Local road traffic, roadworks 721

Motorways 722

M25 London Orbital only 723

National roads/travel 727

National railroads 728

AA Roadwatch 729

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises Sun sets 7:16 am 6:18 pm

Moon sets 5:27 pm Moon rises 4:49 am

New moon October 6 10:15 pm

London 6:18 pm to 7:18 pm

Bristol 6:27 pm to 7:28 pm

Edinburgh 6:24 pm to 7:35 pm

Manchester 6:24 pm to 7:29 pm

Penzance 6:41 pm to 7:38 pm

Weather is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times

ABROAD

Afghanistan 21 70 1 Corfu 24 75 1

Algeria 27 61 1 Dubrovnik 19 65 1

Algeria 22 73 1 El Jadida 19 65 1

America 16 59 1 Feri 20 65 1

B Africa 21 70 5 Frankfurt 17 63 1

Bahrain 31 68 1 Furcal 17 63 1

Bangkok 33 91 1 Geneva 13 65 1

Barbados 20 65 1 Giza 12 65 1

Barcelona 17 63 1 Helvetic 12 65 1

Barbados 27 61 1 Hong Kong 16 75 1

Bahrain 16 61 1 Istanbul 11 65 1

Balkans 25 77 1 Jeddah 16 65 1

Belize 15 59 1 Jo'Burg 27 61 1

Banda's 16 61 1 L'Angola 16 61 1

Bangladesh 15 59 1 London 24 65 1

Bangkok 18 64 1 Le Touet 15 65 1

Barbados 28 62 1 Lisbon 22 72 1

Barbados 19 61 1 Luxembourg 14 67 1

Barbados 9 48 1 Luxor 23 91 1

Cambodia 16 61 1 Madrid 19 65 1

Canada 21 70 1 Majorca 19 65 1

Caribbean 12 65 1 Malta 17 65 1

China 15 60 1 Melito 17 65 1

China 22 73 1 Montevideo 19 65 1

China 16 61 1 Monterrey 17 65 1

China 17 63 1 Nairobi 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 New York 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Novosibirsk 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Oslo 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Paris 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Peking 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Phnom Penh 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Prague 14 57 1

China 15 60 1 Rio de J 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Rome 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Tunis 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Washington 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Wellington 15 65 1

China 15 60 1 Zurich 11 52 1



RED HUBER / AP

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Heir presumptive

The gravel-voiced general Lebed may find the political terrain as rough as the military campaigns in Moldova and Chechnya..... Page 23

Live poets' society

In this soundbitten age, when time is one of our most valuable commodities, to read a poem is to enjoy a fullness of expression in one of its briefest and most concentrated forms..... Page 23

CINEMA

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
Most of those who understand the developments in information technology expect them to be a deep, worldwide erosion of taxing capacity in the next ten years. If the ability to tax and the willingness to be taxed are both in decline the euro will not have the revenue base to support it..... Page 20

ALEKSANDR LEBED

Russia has, for the second time, stepped on the same rake. The first time was in Afghanistan. There, we began the war with lofty aims in mind but ended up with a war against the people..... Page 20

PETER STOTHARD

In Bournemouth there is a real sense of guilt — churned over and chanted about at every level — that the party is letting down the country in order to keep the Government alive..... Page 20

JOHN BRYANT

Can there be a sadder indictment of British sport than the plight of Graham Dilley? The former England fast bowler, forced into retirement with an injury, lined up to sign on for the dole..... Page 45

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Almost down to earth: Alan Bullock on plotting to kill Hitler. Howard Davies studies the return of Margaret Drabble: a new biography of the Queen..... Pages 36, 37

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A dream come true: A week's holiday in South Africa can now cost only £500..... Page 38

THEATRE

The fragility of the Pope raises the question of his retirement. There is nothing against it in canon law, although there have been no examples since the Middle Ages. Clearly, John Paul II shows no inclination to retire but that does not detract from the fact that his *ouevre*, long on encyclicals and pastoral documents, would appear to be at an end..... *El País*, Madrid

OPINION

Roy Lewis, author; Lord Finberg, junior minister; Sir Nigel Fisher, Conservative MP..... Page 23

LETTERS

Goldcrest clear-up 'became cover-up'

A FORMER director of Goldcrest, the Brent Walker films and television subsidiary, has told a London court of his "distress" at the state of the company's accounts (Robert Miller writes).

Frederick Fisher told Southwark Crown Court yesterday that a massive cover-up, allegedly sanctioned by George Walker, former head of Brent Walker, reminded him of the Watergate scandal.

Mr Fisher added that he had spoken to Donald Anderson, the former finance director of Goldcrest, of his concerns. He said he was "distressed and taken aback" by what he had heard from Mr Anderson, adding that the situation reminded him of former American president Richard Nixon's fall from office.

He also said that what appeared to start out as a "clearing-up exercise" had "gone beyond that to a cover-up".

The former Goldcrest director was giving evidence against Mr Anderson who has denied a single charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice between August 1989 and October 1990. The case continues.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.79	16.29
Belgium Fr	52.05	47.75
Canada \$	2.25	2.07
Cyprus Cyp	0.761	0.708
Denmark Kr	9.72	8.92
Finland Fr	7.70	7.22
France F	8.63	7.81
Germany Dm	2.54	2.33
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong \$	12.72	11.25
Iceland	1.15	1.05
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.85
Israel Sheq	5.27	4.72
Italy Lira	2470	2220
Japan Yen	189.20	172.20
Malta	0.805	0.560
Netherlands Gfl	2.930	2.650
New Zealand \$	2.11	1.91
Norway Kr	10.70	9.90
Portugal Esc	253.00	234.50
S Africa Rd	1.07	0.95
Spain Pes	207.00	194.00
Sweden Kr	10.70	9.90
Switzerland Fr	2.09	1.80
Turkey Lira	14650	13500
USA \$	1.681	1.531

Rates for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Ann Gloag, director, and Brian Souter, chairman of Stagecoach, can now proceed with investment programme

Green Budget says case for £3bn tax cuts is weak

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE case for tax cuts in next month's Budget is weak, with any hope of returning the public finances to balance in the medium term relying on unprecedentedly tight control of public spending, according to the Green Budget published jointly yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs.

"Were such control to be achieved, tax reductions might be justifiable in the future," the report said. "To cut taxes now in the expectation of hitting these medium-term spending plans would be dangerous."

In spite of its warnings, the Green Budget believes Kenneth Clarke will cut taxes to the tune of £3 billion, with broadly the same amount being cut from nominal spending plans for the 1997-98 financial year.

Gavyn Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, said that this Budget would be extraordinarily similar to last year's.

"It is not the tax-cutting Budget the right of the Conservative Party wants to see. It is realistically the smallest tax

cutting package the Chancellor can get away with in an election year," he said.

The report predicts that Mr Clarke will show the public sector borrowing requirement dropping to £21.7 billion in 1997-98 and to broad budget balance by 1999-2000, a path of deficit reduction that for the current fiscal year is expected to be £26.2 billion, well above the £22.4 billion assumed in the last Budget.

The report concludes that it will not be too difficult to contain public spending in the short-term. But in the longer term there are real concerns about maintaining control on spending — without services such as health and education suffering.

British Energy to shed 1,460 jobs

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH ENERGY, the privatised nuclear-power generator, confirmed plans to shed 1,460 employees, almost 30 per cent of the workforce, over the next three years in an effort to cut annual costs by £50 million.

The unions called the job losses "a kick in the face" but expressed relief that no power stations or main offices would be closed.

About 1,200 of the jobs will disappear at Nuclear Electric, the larger English division, with six stations. Scottish Nuclear, with two stations, will see 260 job losses. British Energy said it did not expect any compulsory redundancies but would not rule them out.

The redundancy programme will result in the loss of 35 per cent of British Energy's office support staff, and 19 per cent of the stations' staff. A £100 million redundancy charge will be taken over three years.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate said it will review the job cuts and block them if it determines they would compromise safety standards. The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union said it would ask Nuclear Electric to justify every job reduction.

Stagecoach completes purchase financing shake-up

By PAUL DURMAN

STAGECOACH, the bus and train-operating company, has completed the innovative refinancing of its controversial acquisition of Porterbrook, the train-leasing company.

The company has parcelled up the rental income Porterbrook receives from leasing out its rolling stock into £545 million of debt securities. UBS, the investment bank, yesterday placed these securities, most of which carry a triple A rating to a wide range of European investors. Keith Ballantine, an assistant director at UBS, said the placing had gone "extremely well indeed".

UBS believes the Porterbrook deal is the first UK acquisition financed by securitisation of the acquired assets. The securitisation fixes Stagecoach's interest costs at a reduced level and will throw up a £25 million surplus through early repayment of a £520 million bridging loan from UBS.

Keith Cochrane, Stagecoach finance director, said the £25 million surplus — more than was expected when the Porterbrook deal was announced at the end of July — would give a kick-start to the company's investment programme. Stagecoach intends to order 120 new trains, costing £90 million, for its South West Trains franchise.

The average cost of the £545 million of borrowings will be 7.4 per cent, after expenses. Mr Cochrane said Porterbrook had previously been paying about 8 per cent.

Although the debt will appear on Stagecoach's balance sheet, the company is not required to make up any shortfall in the interest payments made to bondholders should rental income prove insufficient because of the failure of any of the train-operating companies. In fact, 80 per cent of Porterbrook's revenues are guaranteed by the Government.

Stagecoach is still awaiting the Office of Fair Trading's verdict on the Porterbrook acquisition.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tunnel shares fall on debt deal fears

SHARES of Eurotunnel fell yesterday, touching a low of 80p, as doubts about the company's debt-restructuring deal with its banks prompted heavy selling in both London and Paris. A total of 2.48 million shares were traded in London, where the stock ended the day at 93½ p, down 11½ p. The shares resumed trading on Monday after being suspended while the company negotiated the refinancing of £8.7 billion of debt.

UBS, the broker, reiterated its sell stance, warning that the tunnel operator would continue to be substantially cash-negative well into the next decade. Richard Hannah, the UBS analyst, said he believed the shares "are seriously overvalued." He said: "The swap of debt to equity doesn't really look big enough to be a proper long-term refinancing." UBS calculates that the total net present value of the cash stream from Eurotunnel's remaining 52-year tunnel-operating concession at below £6 billion, well short of the remaining debt after the deal. The restructuring deal has still to be approved by Eurotunnel shareholders and also has to be ratified by the 225 members of the banking syndicate.

Sony's new film team

SONY CORPORATION has appointed a new management team at its Hollywood film subsidiary in an attempt to staunch the multibillion-dollar losses and executive turmoil that have plagued the company. John Calley, head of United Artists and a respected Hollywood veteran, has joined Sony Pictures as president and chief executive. He has produced several hit films such as *Birdcage* and *GoldenEye*, the latest James Bond. Mr Calley replaces Alan Levine, who resigned last week. At 66 he will be widely regarded as an interim manager.

Allders EGM vote call

ALLDERS, the department store operator, is advising shareholders to vote against resolutions relating to a share capital consolidation at today's extraordinary meeting. Instead, the Allders board intends to propose the payment of a special dividend of 40p a share, as a second interim dividend, at a cost of about £50 million. The recommendation follows Tuesday's statement by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, proposing a crackdown on tax breaks for special dividends. The shares rose 2½ p to 158p yesterday.

News Corp Web site

THE News Corporation, owner of *The Times*, yesterday announced the launch of the News Corp site on the Internet. The address is <http://www.newsCorp.com> and the site consists of an interactive version of the 1996 News Corp annual report. Visitors to the site will be able to download audio and video clip examples of various News Corp products. The site also provides for direct links to the Internet sites of News Corp companies. In the near future the site will be expanded to include press releases and investor information.

Equitas appointment

SIR BRYAN NICHOLSON, former president of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), has been appointed a non-executive director of Equitas, the company set up to restructure Lloyd's of London losses for 1992 and prior years. He is joined on the board by Michael Deeney, the veteran Lloyd's campaigner, who steps down as an external member of the Council of Lloyd's next March. In two further non-executive appointments, Richard Spooner and Stephen Catlin both join the Equitas board.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

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COMPANIES HOUSE

LF/TMS/6

مكتبة الأصل

□ Clarke and Halifax in accord □ Lloyds bid inches nearer □ Ginger group threatens the Norwich

Playing safe with houses

□ DON'T say it too loud in today's overheated housing market or you could start a stampede, but we might have found an honest estate agent. The Halifax says that far from a housing boom, what there is a mild recovery. How fortuitous that this coincided with a similar line from Kenneth Clarke.

And how telling that the Chancellor's views are no more, and possibly less, reliable than those of an estate agent. The Halifax could well run out another of those ra-ra, buy-now-or-regret-it-forever notes we saw in the spring, when a profession that had heralded several false dawns saw a glint of the real thing. Instead it provided a more measured response suggesting a gradual improvement off the peaks achieved in the summer and limited to areas where people actually want to live and where there is an under-supply of available homes.

The builders, much of whose product is situated in the wrong areas because these are the only places they can buy developable land, have been saying this for months; this autumn's reporting season for the industry was not noted for its bullishness.

Whereas Eddie George talked of continuing steady housing market recovery, a consequent spill-over into higher consumer spending and a tumbler that was

half full, the Chancellor could see only a half-empty glass. The truth is that any gradual increase in house prices encourages people to put their homes on the market, so damping down prices again as supply matches demand. Expect, therefore, a series of slow, staggered price increases.

This is probably all to the good. Mr Clarke has his own reason to talk the market down: sharply higher house prices would put upwards pressure on interest rates. Neither he nor the homeowner want that; there is no point in the value of your property rocketing if you face eviction because you cannot pay the mortgage. You can have negative equity and cheap mortgages; you can have soaring house prices and pay the cost.

Keep taking the tablets

□ THE endlessly deferred bids for Lloyds Chemists have become the stock market's longest-running production. Whenever the curtain threatens to fall, there

is always one more act to follow. It is now nine months since Gehe, of Germany, and UniChem first bid for Lloyds, the country's biggest chain of retail chemists after Boots, and the drama is fast becoming a farce.

At least one player has already left the stage. The wife of Allen Lloyd, founder and chairman, sold out in May at 450p a share, well below the market price. She may have lost out, given the respective performance of the shares and the market, but she has bought some peace of mind.

The bids were duly referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In July Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said they should be blocked, unless the two bidders were prepared to sell off odd bits. So far, as orthodoxy — it is normal policy to forbid a merger unless the parties are prepared to make it slightly less attractive, *vide* Bass' purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley now jumping through the same hoop.

But the conditions put on Gehe and UniChem were so slight that it is hard to see how they justify the three-month delay while they

were agreed with the Office of Fair Trading. The Germans were to sell seven wholesale depots, the British six. UniChem would probably have sold or closed these anyway; the two were hardly being required to saw off their right arms, and agreement in principle was swift. They were each required to submit a list of potential buyers — nothing binding, of course; as neither owned the business, they could hardly promise a sale — by next Friday.

The two lists went to the OFT a couple of weeks ago. End of debate, one would have thought. But the October 18 deadline must roll round in all its awful majesty and Mr Lang must then give his decision. How long that will

take, none can say. The significance is the effect on Lloyds' business of nine months of uncertainty and counting. Lloyds has issued a warning on trading, and yesterday's figures contained further indications of damage from the delay. Some scepticism is appropriate; the temptation must have been to blame every setback on the competition authorities.

Meanwhile, Gehe has indicated that it thinks that Lloyds is now worth less than it initially bid. Again, some scepticism is due. UniChem's pronouncements have been more vague, but it seems to regard the benefits of merging Lloyds with its existing business as so attractive that the wait is worth the candle.

But the renewed offers, if they come, are not expected to be at much higher than the current market price, or around the £5 level at which they were pitched at the start of the year. The FTSE 100 index has risen by 7 per cent since the bids were referred. Lloyds shareholders have missed out on this, and all for a few barely profitable pharmaceutical depots no one

seems to much want anyway. Truly do the mills of the competition authorities grind small — and exceedingly slowly.

State of the Union

□ ON THE basis that you can never please everyone all the time, the formation of a ginger group to chivvy the Norwich Union as it heads for flotation was inevitable. The complaints are coming from those "unlucky" enough to have policies that mature between October 1, when the insurer confirmed it was to go public, and the vote on this next Friday.

The claim is that these individuals are losing out. Once their policies mature, they cease to be members of Norwich Union and their voting rights evaporate. They will, therefore, be ineligible for the windfall free shares promised to those who will vote. Yet the Norwich is doing its best to compensate them for any unfairness, real or supposed. They will gain a bonus of an extra 3 per cent on the value of

Floating vote

□ MINISTERS may, at last, have struck a hard bargain with inward investors, and delegates at Bournemouth this week should approve. On Tuesday it was £150 million for 2,000 jobs in Fife; yesterday it was £60 million for the same number between Coventry and Birmingham. Not only is the cost per job falling, there is still the odd undecided voter left in the Midlands.

Inchcape sells off testing business to Charterhouse

BY PAUL DURMAN

INCHCAPE has sold its Testing Services business to Charterhouse Development Capital for about £380 million.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards clearing the £488 million of borrowings at Inchcape, the recently troubled motor distribution group that is offloading the testing business as part of its recovery strategy.

Testing Services, which tests petroleum and electrical equipment, has been one of Inchcape's best performers, recently reporting a 37 per cent rise in first-half operating

profits to £15.7 million. The management of Testing Services, headed by Richard Nelson, 53, is putting up more than £1 million for a stake of up to 16 per cent.

Charterhouse believes that it will be possible to float the business on the stock market within the next three years.

Charterhouse scored a hugely profitable coup for its backers this year when it sold Porterbrook, the train-leasing company, to Stagecoach, the bus company, for £825 million. This was nearly £300 million more than a Charterhouse

backed management buyout paid for Porterbrook at the end of last year.

Stuart Simpson, a director of Charterhouse Development Capital, said that the scale of returns made on Porterbrook "only come round once in a lifetime". However, he added that Charterhouse had a great deal of confidence in Mr Nelson and hoped to do well once again.

Charterhouse, which has worked closely with Bankers Trust, will provide £90 million of equity, while another £50 million will come from a special form of preference shares.

Bankers Trust is arranging a £120 million issue of high-yielding bonds in America and will also underwrite £140 million of senior debt.

Mr Nelson's small head office team will shortly move to new offices in Savile Row. The company will change its name in a few months' time.

The sale was delayed by the company's complexity. It consists of 140 separate subsidiaries operating in more than 80 countries. The business employs 7,000 people. Its laboratories also test commodities, minerals and environmental standards.

Inchcape will make an exceptional profit of £180 million on the sale. It expects to receive its money early next month. The price paid by Charterhouse includes repayment of inter-company debts.

Mr Cushing said that the size of Testing Services in a specialist field meant there were very few possible trade buyers. He added that the price achieved was substantially above estimates made when the business was first put up for sale in March.

Inchcape, which was advised by Crédit Suisse First Boston, is still working on the likely demerger of Bain Hogg, its insurance broking arm.

NBI earnings hit by defections

BY JON ASHWORTH

DEFLECTIONS have begun to take their toll of Norman Broadbent International (NBI), the executive search firm. Income from head-hunting assignments fell by 27 per cent in the first half of 1996, and the decline is expected to continue.

The slide in earnings emerged as NBI's parent, BNB Resources, reported pre-tax profits 33 per cent higher, at £23.5 million, in the six months to end-June. The figures were boosted by the acquisition of Goodman Graham, an information technology specialist. Fully diluted earnings per share were 6.3p (£1.1p). There is an interim dividend of 2.4p (2p).

David Norman, chairman of BNB, said that NBI remained an important contributor to group profits. Defections began in February, when NBI's co-founder, Miles Broadbent, left to set

up his own agency. Julian Sainty, Christopher Beaton-Hird and Ralph Grayson left in March to form a rival financial services practice. Under a lock-in clause, they are required to pay 50 per cent of their earnings to NBI in the first 12 months.

NBI's offices in New York and Hong Kong have also suffered defections. Mr Norman said: "NBI continues to provide a top-class service to quality clients, but as the team is smaller than it has been, profits in the second half are unlikely to match those of the first half. Rebuilding NBI to previous levels of profitability may take longer than earlier envisaged."

Mr Norman added that any shortfall from NBI was likely to be more than offset by contributions from other parts of the group.



Smart work: Chris Thompson, left, Austin Reed managing director, and Colin Evans, chairman, have lifted the dividend

Austin Reed sews up 65% profit rise

THE RETURN of consumer confidence and a renewed commitment to classic women's tailoring have put Austin Reed, the clothing retailer, back on track. The company reported pre-tax profits up 65 per cent to £2.3 million for the six months to August 10 (Sarah Cunningham writes).

A misjudged foray into more casual women's wear last year led to a sharp drop in 1995 profits to £3.4 million from £5.8 million a year earlier.

The company said like-for-like sales were now ahead 8 per cent. Earnings rose 63 per cent to 4.9p a share and the dividend has been increased from 2p to 2.25p.

Tempus, page 28

Lloyds Chemists counts the cost of long bid battle

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LLOYDS CHEMISTS yesterday blamed the uncertainty and costs associated with the long-running struggle for control of the group for a drop in full-year profits. It reported a pre-tax profit of £47 million for the 12 months to June 30, down from £55.6 million a year ago (See Pennington this page).

The company has been at the centre of a bid battle for nearly nine months, and yesterday's drop in profits led to speculation that it has now lost some value to its predators. Analysts said bidders were unlikely to offer a premium to the current share price. At 497p it is just 3p below the original offer from Gehe, the German company,

but they still expect both Gehe and UniChem to come back with fresh bids.

A cash-and-share bid by UniChem and an all-cash bid by Gehe made early this year were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In July the Department of Trade and Industry said that for both companies to rebid they had to find buyers willing to make offers in principle for most of the Lloyds wholesaling business.

Lloyds yesterday said that UniChem and Gehe are in talks with the Office of Fair Trading about "numerous offers from prospective purchasers". Lloyds expects "the terms

of

the necessary undertakings

by

UniChem

to be

finalised

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18".

A cash-and-share bid by

Gehe

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18".

Some customers have asked for different terms, or have gone. And for staff ... if they've been able to find alternative employment, they have left," he said.

Lloyds has maintained its final dividend at 7.3p, payable on December 4. The full-year dividend rises to 10.4p (10.2p).

BT suffers setback to Telekom ambitions

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH Telecom's plans to become Deutsche Telekom's main rival in Germany suffered a blow yesterday when one of its potential partners defected to the rival Cable and Wireless camp.

RWE, a large German utility, said that it ended negotiations to become the third partner in Viag Interkom, the alliance formed by BT and Viag, the German industrial group, because of disagreements over the best way to attack the market when it is deregulated in 1998.

RWE has now agreed in principle to join forces with VebaCom, the telecoms alliance formed by C&W and Veba, Germany's fourth-largest company. Stephen Petit, executive director of C&W's European business, said that the recruitment of RWE gives C&W a clear advantage in Germany, Europe's richest telecoms market. "BT has lost a major partner, which had telecoms assets and cash," he said.

RWE has 4,300km of fibre-optic cable that could form the backbone of an alternative telecoms. It has also agreed to contribute DM25 billion to a restructured German telecoms group in which C&W will have a 22.5 per cent effective ownership. C&W will receive DM450 million back from the group because its ownership has been diluted somewhat by the arrival of RWE.

BT will look for another German partner and said that it and Viag still intend to bid for Germany's fourth mobile-phone licence this month.

BT shares lost 7.2p, to 348.5p; C&W closed at 430p, down 4p.

Tempus, page 28

*"For centuries,
man has pondered
the nature of space..."*

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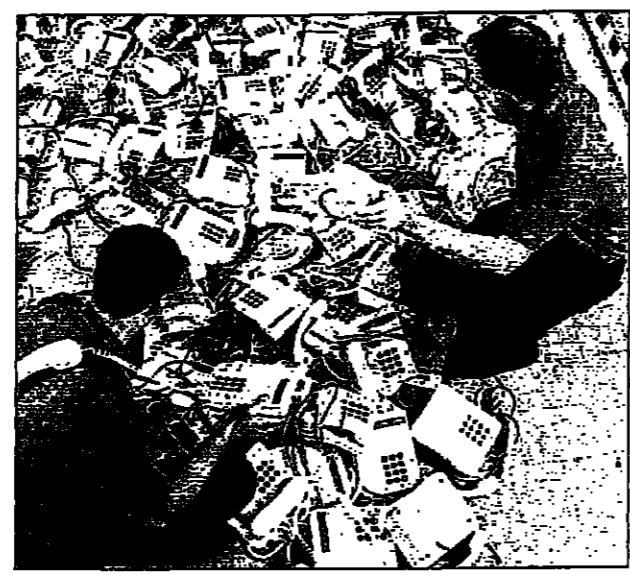
STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street helps to end London's winning ways

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Loss of a phones deal with Germany saw BT shares slip 7.1%

THE London stock market's recent record breaking appears to have run its course with prices sharply lower across the board.

Opening falls on Wall Street added to London's problems, but the FT-100 index held above the 4,000 mark, partly supported by a strong gilt market. It ended the session 26.3 points down at 4,009.3 with at least one leading securities house talking of a major correction within the next few days.

Investors were unsettled by reports earlier in the day that Boris Yeltsin had died. The reports were later denied. Even so, selling pressure appeared light and turnover generally was on the thin side.

Among leaders BT retreated 7.1p at 348.2 after confirming that its talks with RWE and Viasat about forming an alliance to develop both fixed and mobile telecoms in the German market had ended in failure. Instead RWE is now expected to link up with Veba and BT's rival, Cable and Wireless. C&W slipped 4p to 430p.

Several large lines of stock went through on the delayed ticker. They included two million TI Group at 559p as the price reacted with a fall of 5p to 544.2p and 325,000 GKN at 111.38, leaving the price 22.1p cheaper at 109.15p.

Reuters clawed back some of Tuesday's losses suffered after the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would scrap tax relief on share buybacks and special dividends. Shareholders yesterday voted to adjourn an extraordinary meeting to consider resolutions relating to special dividend payments worth £613 million. The special dividend would have been worth 750p over three years.

W H Smith was quick to deny claims that plans to sell its business stationery arm to the French group Guibert had run into a wall. Suggestions that the two had fallen out over the £142 million price tag was quickly dismissed. The disposal would effectively wipe out Smiths' debts. The shares lost 10p at 455p.

Elsewhere among retailers Blacks Leisure stood out with an improvement of 14.1p at 273.1p on talk of a profits upgrade by MeesPierson.

A better than expected increase in profits at the half-way stage lifted Austin Reed Sp to 219.1p. Pre-tax profits

were up from £1.38 million to £2.28 million with brokers now forecasting almost £6 million for the year. The group attributed the performance to a recovery in women's wear and an improvement in their manufacturing division.

Incepta, the advertising and marketing group, celebrated a return to the black with a 4p rise to 211.4p. Pre-tax profits at £1.07 million compared with a 23.1p cheaper at 198.15p.

A renewed burst of speculative buying lifted Leigh Interests, the waste disposal group, 5.1p to 126.1p, just 4p short of its high for the year. Once again there is talk of a bid soon from Severn Trent, which speculators say may be prepared to offer 155p a share. This would price Leigh at almost £102 million.

The proposed debt-for-equity swap. The deal is a complicating one and likely to result in heavy dilution of existing shareholders' stakes.

The rise in petrol prices on the back of a firmer crude oil price has been good news for Frost Group, the petrol retailer, which advanced another 7.1p to 130p. The rise in petrol prices means an easing of the price war which has been

further reflected of Tues-

day's profits warning left On Demand Information another 20p lower at 90p and Country Casuals dropped 19p to 136.1p as it continued to trade in the red.

Confirmation of the disposal of Ingate's testing services unit was greeted with a jump of 8p to 276p. The business has been sold to Charterhouse Development Corporation for £380 million and an exceptional profit of £180 million is likely.

Sleatnight was also rewarded with a leap of 20p to 275p after reporting better than expected first-half results and Finalist firmed up to 314p, after the automotive group reported an encouraging start to the year. Chris Swan, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that targets were being achieved on all fronts despite fierce competition.

Mountview Estates, the property developer, held steady at 113 as Bradford Property Trust snapped up a near 10 per cent stake. Bradford, IP easier at 241.1p, made its move after the sale of a 4.6 per cent stake in the company by TR Property Investment Trust, unchanged at 241.1p.

Burtonwood continued to power ahead with the price 4.1p higher at yet another new high of 189.1p. With manufacturers only prepared to trade in parcels of 5,000 shares at a time it does not take many buyers to get the price moving.

□ **GILT-EDGE:** The equity market may have been in free-fall but bond prices continued from strength to strength. Prices closed below their new record-taking but were still showing healthy gains overall. Most of the demand was aimed at the longer end, producing a further flattening of the yield curve.

Business in the future pits was described as brisk with a total of 117,000 contracts completed as the December series of the long gilt finished 111.32 higher at 111.32.

In longs benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £516 at 1102.22, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £1.16 to 1104.22.

□ **NEW YORK:** On Wall Street shares fell as concern over Russian President Boris Yeltsin's health led to a self-off in bonds. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 21.99 points lower at 5,944.78.

QUESTION: How do you turn £4 million into £110 million overnight? Answer: you stick the Virgin brand name all over the company.

In a nutshell, that is what the backers of Victory Corporation want you to believe. Victory hopes to achieve some 6 per cent of the jeans market but there is the little matter of Levi Strauss, while cosmetics has Body Shop to contend with. Investors who don't share the Branson passion for going up in balloons should steer clear.

More interesting is the achievement of triple-A on part of the non-guaranteed rental streams. Instead of spending money on financial guarantee insurance, Stagecoach has opted to offer the buyers of the notes more security than they need. Thus for every £1 of rental income encumbered, Porterbrook is getting 80p from the sale of the notes but it also leaves the company some 20p of free cashflow.

The long-term funding market is excited about pros-

pects for deals in the privatised rail industry. Certain of the attractions are obvious: a large part of the income of the rolling stock companies is guaranteed by the Government, via the train operating companies who are the ROSCO customers. HM Treasury's guarantee on a lease — whether for a train or a building — renders the income stream as good as risk-free, hence the triple A rating on the floating rate notes.

Stagecoach has done well in its securitisation of the Porterbrook rental stream. Few companies would be able to borrow five-year money, non-recourse at a fixed rate of 7.4 per cent, not to mention a fast-moving highly acquisitive vehicle such as Stagecoach.

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Davies finds out his limit

CRUEL news for Howard Davies, former Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry and deputy Governor of the Bank of England, who was told recently that he could have a credit card with only a £500 limit. Talking at the British Computer Society Unisys lecture, Davies said he had been drawn in by the idea of collecting Air Miles everytime he made a purchase on his credit card; he knows how much his two boys like to travel. Why so low a limit? "Well sir," said the clerk at his bank. "You have moved jobs rather a lot in the last two years."

Speedy return

STRANGE goings-on at Legal & General, where the firm's publicity manager waved goodbye and was welcomed back within a week. Peter Timberlake, 36, who joined the insurer 16 years ago, left L&G to join EMR, a small financial services PR agency. But before you can say "about turn", he was back at his desk in Surrey. Where he was reinstated in the same job — this time working for Kate Avery, who had been brought in from Barclays to replace Paul Hopper as L&G's marketing director. It was during his week at EMR, says Timberlake, that it dawned on him the "opportunities" he was missing with his old firm. Timberlake's colleagues at L&G have been kind enough not to make him return his leaving present, a rather fancy golf club.



"I'm calling our German office, but keep getting Cable and Wireless"

Phone tips

CITY salesmen have been under attack from Emma Forbes, the TV presenter. After running away with an Interpretations Skills Award at the 1996 European Multimedia Awards for her appearance on *Phone Fundamentals*, an educational interactive CD-ROM on phone behaviour, she delivered an aside on modern manners. Turning to City salesmen, Forbes said: "They need coaching more than anyone... I met a dealer once who thought correct behaviour was to pick up the phone the quickest and shout the loudest."

VICTOR BLANK, chairman and chief executive of Charterhouse Bank, has been sent a pulse-racing invitation for his 54th birthday on November 9. He is one of 80 invited by Winged Fellowship, the charity that takes disabled people on holiday, to take part in a 300-foot bungee jump in Battersby — black tie required.

Missing out

CEDRIC, the pig of British Gas fame, was refused permission to join her GMB chums on a day-trip to Bournemouth yesterday, where they were protesting against "17 years of Tory greed and steaze". She had to remain in her pen in Tower Hamlets because the union didn't apply in time for a licence to take her out. Instead, pigs from Dorset posed outside the conference centre. A photo-call for John Gummer, Environment Secretary, was relocated because of the blue rosette-wearing swine.

MORAG PRESTON

Fifteen years ago blinded by tolerance, I still thought the threat of the "loony left" was a scare, got up by the politically neutered. Until that is, I read *Manifesto: A Radical Strategy for Britain's Future*. This sometimes trenchant analysis was the work of six highly respectable Labour intellectuals, though each denied personal responsibility for the product of "a truly collective process".

No wonder. Socialist ideology led them logically but ludicrously to a programme that required vast extra public spending, exchange controls, import controls, mass nationalisation, state direction of investment and, later on, conversion of most smaller businesses to co-operatives. Some proposals seemed to have no point beyond the logical pursuit of dogma, led to silly contradictions and were bound to lose votes. Home ownership divided rich and poor but was bad for the working classes because it pre-empted democratic allocation. Collective bargaining was to extend to management, town hall and state industrial policy. Consumers needed more power but firms' output should no longer be determined by "essentially trivial dictates of artificially contrived consumerism".

This seemed daft in 1981. In much-diluted form, it ensured that Labour was crushed at the polls in 1983. Now it sounds quaint, serving only to explain why Tony Blair avoids theories or controversial detail.

Sadly, the blinkered ideological urge has not disappeared. It has turned from red to blue. Tories repainting to Bournemouth this

week were treated by the Centre for Policy Studies to *A Conservative Agenda: proposals for a fifth term*, by Tessie Kewsey and Edward Heathcoat Amory. Old Lefties who converted to Thatcherism would find the style familiar, down to the inevitable demand for ministers to have much bigger cadres of political advisers at taxpayers' expense. Chairman Mao would approve.

Among much good sense, they put up a series of sure vote losers. These include VAT on food and water, replacing too-successful Peps and Tessas with "more targeted schemes", privatising the Crown Estate and the Forestry Commission as well as the Royal Mail, abolishing student grants and means-testing child benefit.

VAT on water would alone virtually guarantee that Tory MPs were wiped out in the South West. VAT on food and fares would automatically raise pensions and all other benefits linked to the retail price index *pro rata*. Steeper increases in the social security budget would be demanded because these zero-rated items make up a larger proportion of the budgets of those relying on means-tested benefits. Even worse, more people on low incomes would

Yesterday's ideology will not win future votes



GRAHAM SEASE-JEAN

need a benefit top-up. VAT on domestic fuel, a disproportionately large item in pensioners' spending, required £1 of extra public spending for every £3 raised.

What leads sane political activists to propose policies that are guaranteed to alienate the very "Middle England" voters they seek to woo? The simple answer is ideology. If you accept the logic of incentives, it must make sense to tax spending more in order to cut income and inheritance tax, regardless of the impact on public spending. If privatisation trans-

formed British Airways, it must be good for anything that is still left, such as the nation's forests, even if good forestry is uncool at current interest rates.

After all, doubling VAT in 1979 was unpopular to start with. So was privatisation of BT in 1984, but no one would now want telephones back in the dead hand of the State. Such revolutionary logic has already turned a privatised gas industry that any Conservative could be proud of five years ago into a music-hall joke that is at risk of collapse.

The underlying problem is that Conservatives believe they need new policies to show they have run out of steam after four terms, just as Labour, to avoid distrust, needs to have as few controversial plans as possible. Privatising the Post Office is not a new policy. It is an old policy that has been shelved. Post Office managers and the Department of Trade and Industry both know privatisation is essential for the Royal Mail to develop its business potential in fast-changing, competitive, cross-border markets. Unfortunately, they cannot agree a way to do it that the public would accept. Mainstream privatisation has nearly run

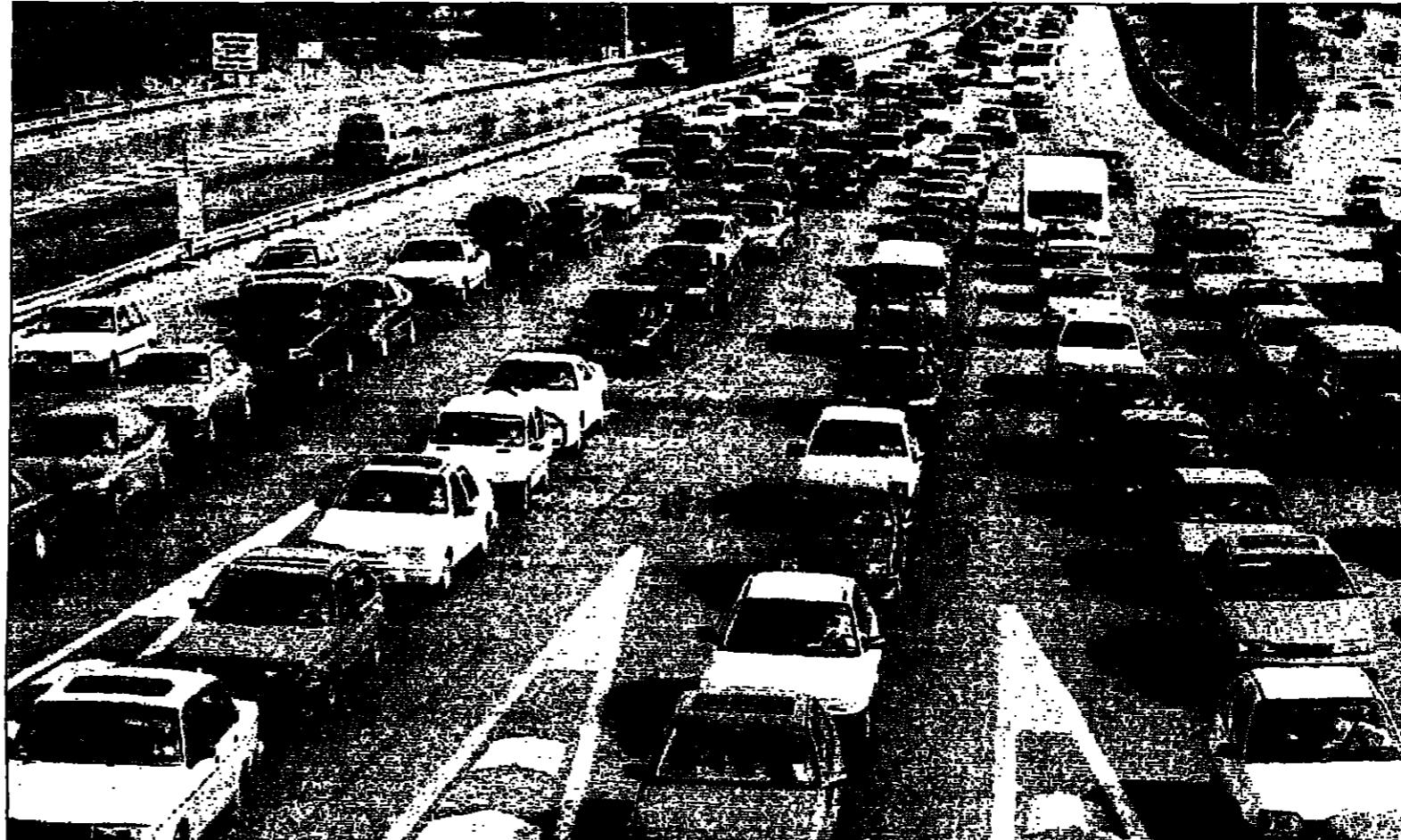
its course. Only hard cases are left. More generally, we have already reaped most of the rewards of the Thatcher market revolution. After 17 years of effort, public spending still takes more than 40 per cent of national income. Yesterday's analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests that no more than 1% points is yet to be cut by the cyclical upturn in higher output and lower unemployment. That is no more than the increase already brought by switching from direct to indirect taxes.

New policies should tackle concerns that loom so large today as abuse of union power did in 1979. The huge rise in non-tested welfare spending is keeping the tax burden up. It is the worst side-effect of the 1980s medicine, caused by growth in relative poverty as state subsidies, regulated private subsidies and uneconomic jobs were swept away. Reducing poverty instead of relieving it is one of the key political issues of the next decade, along with Britain's role in Europe (addressed well by Stephen Dorrell yesterday), marrying economic progress with a cleaner environment and the related problems of drug-related crime and family breakdown.

Labour offers the minimum wage, which sounds good but would probably have only a marginal effect. A five-year Tory agenda might start next month by eliminating income tax on the poorest, which is expensive, and using the tax system to help low-income families with one earner, which is politically incorrect. Unlike the ideologies, it would also win votes.

The success of the rail sell-off masks a policy void on transport, says Jonathan Prynne

Jams today — and jams tomorrow



Insatiable private car use: transport privatisation may be sexy in the City but the changes wrought so far have been cosmetic and costly

After years of sucking in its cheeks over rail privatisation the City has suddenly fallen in love with public transport. Railtrack was one of the most successful privatisations of recent years: shares of Prins Rail, the only quoted pure private rail company, are booming; and Stagecoach is one of the hottest stocks on the market. Financially, at least, transport is sexy.

A year ago it was all so different. One half of the City did not even understand privatisation. The other half believed that it was doomed to failure or that the political risk from Labour was far too great. There would be little interest in passenger franchises and the job would only be part done by the election. So ran the conventional wisdom.

A substantial part of the credit for this turnaround is owed to the City advisers on the sale, notably SBC Warburg and the marketing consultants Dewe Rogerson.

An outrageous bribe with public money it may have been, but the £70 million dividend sweeteners offered to investors in Railtrack was a stroke of genius. It meant that greed outweighed fear in investors' attitudes to the sale and ensured a healthy oversubscription and first-day premium. Without that, rail privatisation could still have ended in chaos.

Since the flotation City confidence in privatisation has soared and the pace of the sell-off has accelerated to breakneck speed. More than 80 per cent of the former British Rail businesses have now been sold and 51 per cent of the passenger network will be in private hands by Monday.

Even the West Coast Main Line modernisation, complete with the promise of tilting trains, will be under way before the general election.

At times the speed of the breakup has given an impression of unseemly haste, a feeding frenzy of sales driven by a "scorched earth" political objective of completing the sale before Labour can take to the reins.

Meanwhile, the solution to the transport problems that

are still facing the country — essentially one of how to meet, and ultimately reverse, the apparently insatiable demand for private car use — remain as far away as ever.

Touchingly, Sir George has pinned his hopes on the humble bus. If making trains exciting has proved difficult, imagine how much more of a challenge it will be putting the bust into buses.

"I regard the bus as the dark horse of transport, there is so much more that can be done for the bus," insisted Sir George. "You can have more information about when buses are running, newer buses, better bus shelters. In Birmingham, simply by also painting the route of the bus on its side passenger usage

were up by 5 per cent." It is these sorts of low-cost, low-publicity projects that the Department of Transport specialises in these days. Treasury cuts have been so savage — and the department is expecting no favours this year either — that the grand announcements of John MacGregor's day in the early 1990s are looked back on as a half-remembered golden era.

Even the Government's much-vaunted private finance roads could be run into difficulty and may have to be scaled down or halted. The schemes — a form of hire purchase under which private operators pay for roads to be built and are paid back over 30 years by the Government — achieve the short-term objective of relieving the pressure on the PRBR.

Longer term they are a ticking financial time bomb with the combined annual payments on the various private road projects eating up an ever bigger slice of the Government's annual cake.

Ultimately, the only answer may be to take funding of roads out of Treasury control altogether. Plans for a radical full-scale "privatisation" of the motorway and trunk road network have been drawn up at the department but did not find favour with the political high command of the Conservative Party. With the pressure on roads budgets unlikely to go away, the plans could be dusted down again after the election, whoever holds the reins.

If you thought that selling Railtrack was a political hot potato, wait till the City gets hold of RoadCorp.

Lang strikes from a different angle

Tory goal of industrial relations reform is finally in sight, says Philip Bassett



Strikes in essential services would be banned under Ian Lang's proposals

new move on trade union law would form a manifesto commitment.

The Green Paper, which Whitehall officials have been working on for some time, is likely to include a range of options for change, including more cooling-off periods and more balloting. But its central idea was rightly described by Mr Lang yesterday as a "new concept in British industrial relations — that of proportionality". He went on to say: "If a strike's

effects are disproportionately damaging to the public, then the trade union which organises the strike will risk losing its immunity and being sued for damages."

Mr Lang said of unions organising strikes: "If they try to make the public pay, they may well find they will have to pay the public."

If a postal strike is affecting 20 million customers, then its impact might well be seen to be disproportionate. But if a single business goes under

as a result of a much smaller strike, the impact of that strike is 100 per cent disproportionate to that firm.

It would not be for the Government, but the courts, to decide the issue. This shift is central. Since 1979, whenever strike activity has risen, the Conservative Government has repeatedly looked at outlawing strikes in essential services, and has repeatedly had to put aside the idea when it has foundered on the rocks of legally defining what constitutes an "essential" service.

Clearly, ambulance staff would be. But would transport drivers delivering oxygen to hospitals, particularly if one day they are delivering oxygen, and the next they are delivering sandwiches to high street retailers?

The intellectual leap behind Mr Lang's proposal circumvents this whole quagmire by shifting the onus away from the infinite scrupulousness of Whitehall bill-drafters to the more robust decisions of the courts. This would leave it for individual judges to decide in individual cases brought by individual customers whether or not the strike action is "disproportionate", whether or not in fact it constitutes an essential service.

Some advisers are suggesting that in an age of Conservative-promoted service competition — where, on post or transport, for instance, there are clear alternatives for customers — it might be helpful to draw from current competition law to help to define a "monopoly" service, such as one which has a market share in its area of, say, 25 per cent.

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Mounting concern over new fraud trends

By ROBERT MILLER

A DISTURBING new wave of sophisticated money laundering and fraud techniques is stretching the resources of international agencies, a conference of leading fraudbusters will hear today.

Financial investigators at a two-day conference at Wakefield, Yorkshire, organised by the UK's National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), will be told of the organisation's mounting concern over "new fraud trends which

British Coal disposal

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH COAL has sold its property fund management arm to La Salle Partners, the Chicago property asset management group, for an undisclosed price.

CIN Property Management manages £1.5 billion of real estate for British Coal's pension funds. Its disposal follows the sale of CIN Management, the equity fund managers, to Goldman Sachs last month and the management buyout earlier of British Coal's venture capital business.

The British Coal pension fund portfolio includes 17 shopping centres in the UK as well as office buildings in London with a landmark tower near Oxford Circus comprising the BHS flagship store and 200,000 square feet of offices.

La Salle Partners International, the UK arm of La Salle, which will take over the CIN team, has £500 million under management in the UK. After the acquisition La Salle worldwide will have £9 billion under management.



Rise and shine: Bill Simpson, left, and Barry McKenzie, group finance director, reported strong half-year results

Steep drop in Japanese current account surplus

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S current account surplus fell by nearly 29 per cent in August from a year earlier, with large outflows of yen to overseas capital markets, and import growth swollen by higher oil prices.

The current account surplus shrank by 28.9 per cent to 460.6 billion yen (about £2.7 billion) from August in the

previous year, the finance ministry said yesterday. It expected the current account balance, which has fallen continuously since September 1995, to remain on a downward trend.

A senior ministry official said: "Import growth has been far outpacing increases in exports and the deficit in

services trade has been showing an upward trend."

The surplus in merchandise trade alone fell 27.8 per cent to \$66.7 billion yen from August last year. The figures confirm the trend of rising imports, but also reflect a 5.2 per cent rise in Japan's monthly oil bill.

Economists noted the pace of the decline in the surplus was slowing as a weaker yen made Japanese exports more competitive and foreign products more expensive.

Surging outflows of Japanese capital contributed to the decline in August, the official said. With domestic interest rates at record low levels, Japanese investors are focusing on foreign currency deposits and international securities for better returns.

Losses were 3.07p a share (3.47p loss) but the company lifted its interim dividend from 1.41p to 1.7p, payable on December 16.

Country Casuals hit

SHARES OF Country Casuals shed 12 per cent of their value yesterday, falling 19p to 136½p, after the fashion retail group revealed an interim pre-tax loss of £918,000, a marginal improvement on its £1.04 million loss of a year ago (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company's biggest problem was at Lerose Manufacturing, where losses increased from £145,000 to

£365,000 in the six months ended July 27, after a major customer reduced demand. The company said that the order book has begun to recover in the past month, but losses would continue into the second half.

Losses were 3.07p a share

(3.47p loss) but the company lifted its interim dividend from 1.41p to 1.7p, payable on December 16.

Overall earnings rose to 6.99p per share (5.22p). The dividend of 3p (2.75p) is due on January 2. Analysts are forecasting record pre-tax full-year profits of £12.5 million.

ACCOUNTANCY

Long live the mid-sized firm

Flexibility and a good corporate finance arm help in a changing environment, says John Wosner

Mark Twain's quotation "rumours of my death have been greatly exaggerated" can be equally applied to the medium-sized accountancy firm. For 15 years seasoned observers have been saying that it would disappear in the face of competition from the large accounting firms.

During the 1980s it seemed that this would come true. As well as a consolidation of the biggest firms from eight to six, a number of mid-sized firms were acquired. However, over the past ten years this process has dried up. With two exceptions there have been no notable acquisitions or mergers between mid-tier firms. Why did the experts get it wrong?

The answer lies in the continuing polarisation that has taken place. A recent survey showed that 94 per cent of the top 500 quoted companies are now audited by Big Six firms. Thus, mid-sized firms that wished to remain in this market accepted the inevitable strategic decision of takeover. Those firms that did not view it as their primary market opted to remain independent so that they could concentrate on their own market, that of small and medium



John Wosner believes mid-tier firms must develop a niche

enterprises. Many of the larger mid-tier firms have, through regional and local coverage, strong positions in the middle market.

What is the middle market? Broadly speaking it includes companies with turnovers of between £5 million and £100 million. Typically they employ between 30 and 1,000 people.

The middle market overlaps to some degree with the definitions used for small and medium enterprises. It encompasses about 20,000 businesses in the UK and given its size it is not surprising that mid-tier firms have focused on it as their natural market.

If one bears in mind that about three out of four of these businesses are private companies requiring advice it is not surprising that the role of the professional and his relationship with founding family members and owner-managers is seen as quite distinct.

The typical management team of a public-listed company, on the other hand, must grapple with issues (such as corporate governance and duties to public shareholders) as paramount rather than ancillary. Nevertheless, one in four companies in the middle market are quoted, which accounts for the fact that several medi-

um-sized firms have maintained and developed their existing skills in Stock Exchange work and come into direct competition with the Big Six.

As a result, those mid-tier firms that have invested in a good quality corporate finance arm have found opportunities to provide corporate advice and finance services to a wide range of institutions not restricted to the servicing of the middle market. Similarly,

Having said that, there are no grounds for complacency among the mid-tier firms.

Private companies are increasingly recognising the need to ensure that their production techniques and information systems are keeping pace with

the rapid changes brought

the natural financial adviser?

First, it is the importance of long-term relationships.

Secondly, the decision-making process in the typical middle-market company is more flexible and responsive than the typical multinational.

Thirdly, the middle market company lays greater emphasis on the quality of product or service.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ad hoc campaign

THE unveiling of the latest advertising campaign from the English ICA takes place next week. But people expecting another mildly risqué and baffling poster campaign are going to be disappointed.

This time it will take the form of newspaper advertising and emphasise the benefits of a chartered accountant

as a business adviser. That's the trouble with accountants; they have no sense of adventure.

Charity clarity

AT LEAST someone in the tax business has good timing. TaxAid, the charity that provides tax advice to the needy, has produced *The Tax Debt Handbook*. As the book points

out succinctly: "The doubling

of self-employed numbers during

the last 15 years, combined

with a growth in debt generally,

makes it likely that in

future every tax adviser will

have to assist clients with tax debts more frequently." And

self-assessment will simply

make the situation worse.

The handbook deserves to

be a bestseller, and all the

profits go to the charity. It

costs £29.50. Details on 0171

624 5216.

ROBERT BRUCE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Halma pays \$9.5m for Volk Optical

HALMA, the UK safety systems and environmental controls company, has acquired Volk Optical Inc, of Cleveland, Ohio, a leading maker of lenses and optical systems used by optometrists and in microsurgery. Halma paid \$9.5 million on completion, with a further \$1.5 million due within 30 days, depending on Volk's level of assets and net cash. Halma is to pay Don and Joan Volk, principal vendors, \$2.5 million in respect of a two-year service agreement and ten-year non-competition agreement. The vendors may also earn a maximum \$2.5 million bonus on Volk sales to October 1998.

In the year to March 31, Volk had sales of \$5.4 million and pre-tax profits of \$1.59 million after deduction of \$328,121 non-recurring salaries. Volk claims 70 per cent of the US market and a significant supplier in Germany and Japan. Its products are already sold through two Halma subsidiaries, Keeler in Britain and Keeler Instruments in America.

New Holland at \$3.97bn

NEW HOLLAND, the agricultural equipment company owned by Fiat of Italy, will be valued at up to \$3.97 billion when trading in its shares begins on the New York Stock Exchange this month. Fiat's interest could be reduced to 69 per cent after the initial public offering of shares, to be priced at \$20 to \$23, it was announced yesterday. New Holland was formed in 1991 when Fiat acquired Ford New Holland Inc, merging its commercial activities with those of Fiat Geotech.

Jones Group in the red

AN IR£4 million restructuring charge pushed Jones Group, of the Irish Republic, into the red in the first six months of this year. The shipping, radiator and oil-distribution group reported pre-tax losses of Ir£2.4 million (Ir£1.4 million profit). Denis Magee, chairman, said restructuring of the loss-making radiator division is continuing. Group turnover rose to Ir£49.5 million from (Ir£43 million). Losses were Ir£18.8p a share (Ir1.1p earnings). There is no interim dividend (Ir4p).

Delays hurt Riva

LOSSES at Riva, the electronic till company, deepened to £890,000 in the six months to June 30 after delays in launching new products slowed its move away from point-of-sale hardware to till-systems software. The company, which made a loss of £55,000 last year, expects its new product range to help it to much stronger results in the second half. Riva's broker expects it to break even by the year end. Losses were 3p per share (0.2p loss). Again there is no interim dividend.

Eurovein bounces back

EUROVEIN, the specialist filtration and surface treatment company, returned to profit in the year to July 31, earning £1.36 million before tax. In the previous year the company incurred losses of £1.18 million. Earnings were 9p a share (9.2p loss). The final dividend is reinstated at 2p a share (nil), making a total of 3p (0.51p). Turnover rose to £39.4 million (£32.59 million). Operating profit before reorganisation costs recovered to £1.94 million (£39,000). The shares rose 12p to 65½p.

Prices fuel Frost hopes

FROST GROUP, the independent petrol retailer, expects to benefit from increases in petrol prices imposed by leading petrol companies. Frost said its Save discount petrol stations had regained competitiveness and made a strong recovery in volumes in August and September. Gross margins have not significantly improved and earnings for the year should be in line with City expectations. Vasant Bhava, finance director, is leaving the company "by mutual agreement" on November 1.

Training in need of balanced approach

IT IS still a widely held belief that at the current rate of the profession's expansion the entire world population will be accountants by the middle of the next century, if not before. Yet, for the UK at least, the opposite is true. For the main chartered bodies the number of students in training for the profession's exams is in steady long-term decline and has been for some time.

So what has the English ICA, the largest of the accountancy bodies been doing about it? It has been attempting to make the syllabus more relevant and, more important, trying to make the training system more flexible so that firms will feel themselves able to afford to train more young hopefuls.

This effort came to grief earlier in the year when members called a special meeting to throw out the original proposals. The fault was as much poor consultation on the part of the ICA as its efforts to change the syllabus. But members, particularly those in smaller firms, were outraged at what they saw as an effort to dilute the core content of the exams.

The result has been a huge consultation exercise and a series of terribly tentative suggestions that may become proposals after yet another consultation exercise. The institute is now terrified of members chucking out the proposals again.

But the problem really is not that smaller firms do not like the idea of change in the examination syllabus and structure. It is that the smaller firms do not like training student accountants at all. In 1985 smaller firms, those of up to ten partners, registered 1,532 new students. By last year the figure was 735.

At the root of the malaise is cash. The big firms, whose student numbers are also in decline, argue that the lack of flexibility in timing of study leave and its length can no longer be justified financially. And the smaller firms just cannot, they say, afford to train student chartered accountants.

It does seem odd that all the exhortations for small firms to become more businesslike has simply resulted in a cult of their own natural successors. The small firms care enough to argue about the syllabus but not enough to recruit a student. The current inexorable 7.5 per cent decline in their student numbers each year will lead, sooner rather than later, to no new chartered accountants coming through in smaller firms.

Theoretically the firms would wither and

die. But, in fact, they would not. What would happen is that there would just be many more certified accountants among their ranks. It is much cheaper and less disruptive to train certified accountants. They cost less and there is less reliance on lengthy periods of inflexible study leave.

Among the current generation of accountants in their prime this seems a difficult issue. The younger generation is the graduate-only generation. Those in their late forties and early fifties are the last of a generation that tended to start student training straight from school. The three current office-bearers at the Scots ICA, for example, are all accountants who started training straight from school.

The Scots ICA is finding the debate as difficult as the English ICA. There is one council member, for example, who insists on training only certified accountants in his firm. He will tell you, in no uncertain terms, that graduates are useless, that they couldn't find a bus-stop, let alone an error in a trial balance. Yet there is another council member whose firm, of similar size, makes a selling point of training the best and brightest of graduates as Scots CAs.

The problem for the accountancy bodies is finding the right balance between emphasising the high quality and reputation of the qualification and encouraging firms, of all sizes, to take people on as students.

One route favoured by the English ICA would be for greater flexibility of exam times. Accountancy firms are at their least busy in August so why not hold the exams then when students are least likely to be needed on audit? And why not cut back on study leave by making the subjects that are based on what used to be known as book-learning into distanced learning technology-packaged programmes. To the older generation this will provoke nightmares of the days when a company called Foulks Lynch dominated the market with mind-numbing correspondence courses at which, theoretically, students laboured through their weekday evenings.

But the answer to the whole problem has to be to make it easier to take on and train students. Keep the exams stiff. But make sure that bright young people, whether straight from school or university, can still train in smaller firms if they wish.

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CHOICE 1
Curtain up on
Sam Shepard's
passionate drama,
Fool for Love
VENUE: Opens tonight,
Donmar Warehouse



CHOICE 2
... while Opera
North revives
Deborah Warner's
staging of Wozzeck
VENUE: Opens tonight,
Grand Theatre, Leeds

THE TIMES ARTS



NEW VIDEOS
The archives are
raided for
the revealing,
ten-hour
documentary, *The
Beatles Anthology*



■ NEW CDS
... and on disc
the extraordinary
music of Percy
Grainger is the
subject of a new
collected edition

LONDON
FOOL FOR LOVE: Ian Brown directs Barry Lynch and Loraine Ashbourne in Sam Shepard's fierce drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert. With Gavin Grainger and Martin Marquez. Donmar Warehouse, Earls Court, WC2 (0171-368 722). Opens tonight 7pm, Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat & Sun 7pm, Sun 4pm. Until November 30.
THE GREAT ORCHESTRAS OF THE WORLD: The Royal Philharmonic's historic musical instruments, the Koenig Orchestra, makes its symphonic debut in London. The orchestra's principal conductor, Murray Gherman, conducts a programme featuring works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm.

JOAQUIN COSTELLO: The smouldering Spanish dancer returns to London for two performances only at the Royal Opera House. Costello, recently the subject of a BBC 2 documentary, fuses blues, jazz, rock'n'roll and flamenco in a stylish and savagely sensual way. uniquely his own. Almeida, Kangaroo Lane, SW7 (0171-569 8212) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

NURTURED: Edited by Richard Norton-Taylor, directed by Nicolas Kent, a strong and suspenseful account of the case against the last leading figure of the Nazi regime. Opening: Reckoning, Kent and Speer. Performed by the actors who present

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merit Hargre

SIBERIANA: The same evening (See theatre guide below)
HIGH WYCOMBE: The Rambert Dance Company kicks off its autumn tour with the world premiere of *Edizioni*, Kim Brandstrup's first ballet for the company. Also featuring Christopher Bruce's *Moonshine* and *Koi*. Smiths by Didy Veldman. St Mary Street, (01494 512000) Tues-Sat, 8pm.

LEEDS: Revival of Dame Judith's powerful 1982 production of Alan Berg's tragic opera *Wozzeck*. Andrew Sims returns to sing the role, with Dame Josephine Barstow making her debut as his wife, Marie. Deborah Warner's staging is at the Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate, (0113 245 935 14/40871). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm.

DERBY: Alan Healy draws on his brief but bloody career as a boxer for *PWT*, the story of a former Olympic medalist's comeback. Directed by Peter Gill. Phoenix, 2nd floor, Broad Street, Touring to Blackpool, Huddersfield and 14 other venues.

PLAYHOUSE: *Requiem*, Edie Canseco, 1st floor, 7pm, mat 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8.45pm. Until October 26.

ART: Gerald Lang (0171-930 6332)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, seats only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

■ LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR: Bill Bryson's very funny account of working among the denizens of the 23rd floor of St Catherines back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sd.

Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-584 5040) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm.

■ THE LODGER: Murray Melvin (back from the West End) directs 30 years since he made his name in the title role, and the man thought to be Jack the Ripper and his landlady Lynn Farleigh. Theatre Royal Haymarket Square, E1 (0181-534 0210) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

■ SIBERIANA: Powerful excerpts from this summer's war crimes trial at the Hague, followed by a discussion among the genocide committed by Bosnian Serbs a year ago. Nicolas Kent directs the actors who also perform in Nuremberg, the same evening. Tricycle, 339 Kingsland High Rd, NW9 (0171-328 1000) Preview tonight, 7pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

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OPENS tomorrow, Thurs. Then Mon-Fri, 7pm, Sat, 8.30pm. mat Wed (Oct 23), 2pm. Until October 26.

■ UNCLE VANYA: Bill Bryson's stony *Chichester* cast: Frances Barber, Simon Callow, Timothy Treloar, Denis Jacob, Peter Mullan, Imogen Stubbs and Richard Johnson. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-929 730) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, 8pm.

■ WHEN WE ARE MARRIED: Dawn French and Michael Ball and Lee Mead host the spin-off of the hit *Judge Kelly*'s production of the *Playhouse*, evergreen, first seen at Chichester. Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-930 6888). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 8pm.

■ HAMLET: BBC Video, £19.99

HOW many *Theatrefilms* in Electronovision have you seen? That's the novelty did not catch on. But at least we are left with this curious record of a live performance of John Gielgud's production at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in New York. The Electronovision image tends towards the dark and fuzzy, but there is no hiding Richard Burton as the Prince of Denmark, dressed like the others in 1960s casuals and indulging in a little too much Welsh ranting. The cast includes Hume Cronyn as Polonius, and Eileen Herlie as Gertrude. Gielgud himself supplies the Ghost's voice.

■ THE DRUM: Carlton U, 1946

A. E. W. MASON'S doughty tale of derring-do on India's north-west frontier in the days of the Raj, convincingly recreated in the hills beyond Harlech and shot in splendid, eye-popping colour. Roger Livesey is in jovial form as Captain Carruthers; Raymond Massey curdles the blood as the usurper Ghul Khan; and Sabu is simply Sabu as the young prince. Other Alexander Korda productions newly available include *The Thief of Bagdad*, *The Ghost Goes West* and *The Man Who Could Work Miracles*.

■ SUDDEN DEATH: CIC, 1996

THE American Vice-President is taken hostage during a Pittsburgh hockey

If you still believe in yesterday



Not about to let it be: fans will want to buy *The Beatles Anthology* on video for the previously unseen footage

and Eileen Herlie as Gertrude. Gielgud himself supplies the Ghost's voice.

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GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Angels and Saxons; Heppner burns in *Fidelio*; a grip on Grainger

Eitelwald, Bishop of Winchester, whose great learning ensured that much of the music was written down in the first place. In between come gently and expressively articulated chants telling of the miracles of St Cuthbert and the glory of King Edmund, invincible martyr of East Anglia, who had to contend with the Norse invasions which were also to destroy Cuthbert's priory in Lindisfarne.

AS THE chanting monks of Europe brace themselves for renewed seasonal promotion, here is a home-grown disc with real character and a strong *raison d'être*. Magnificat, a five-year-old choir of former Oxford and Cambridge singers directed by Philip Cave, give subtle yet sturdy English performances of plainchant transcribed from English medieval manuscripts celebrating the lives of local saints.

Their chronological programme traces the history of the English church and people, Beide-style, from St Gregory and his initial mission to convert the English ("not Angles but Angels") to Leonore and Florestan. On the way comes much marvellous playing from his Munich orchestra, with the finest left for *Leonore*. No 2 added at the close. At 15 minutes, it is not so much a *bonne bouche* as a full course and it demonstrates the set's high technical quality.

NOT ALL Davis's cast match his aspirations. The three German bass-baritones are only moderate. Gunther von Kannen's Pizarro is rough and unmenacing; Matthias Hollé is content to leave Rocco as a comfortable old boy; and Thomas Quasthoff could have made more of Fernando's last-minute appearance. Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz and Michael Schade show better as the two juveniles in Rocco's prison.

Parts of *Act I* lack vitality, a quality injected into the set by the arrival of Ben Heppner's Florestan. His opening cry of anguish and the whole of the following aria bring back memories of his Canadian compatriot, Jon Vickers, greatest among recent Florestans.

Heppner keeps up the tempo in fine heroic style. At times he is matched by Deborah Voigt's Leonore. She has the right womanly quality, but is short of the radiance of some of her predecessors in the role. *Abscheiderlich* is the test and here the orchestra outperforms the soprano.

who is responsible for the orchestral works, is both an enthusiastic advocate and a persuasive interpreter.

The most notable pieces on the first disc are the exuberantly energetic *English Dance* and the Suite in *A Nutshell*, with its disturbing Jvesian distortions of the pastoral idiom. My own favourites are the unashamedly sentimental *Harvest Hymn* and *Colonial Song*, the latter with gushing Hollywood-drenched climax. There are also three Kipling-influenced scores (*There were Three Friends*, *Fisher's Boarding House* and *We Were Dreamers*; *Blithe Bells*, an outrageous improvisation on Bach's *Sheep may Safely Graze*, worthy of Stokowski: the familiar *Shepherd's Hey*, and more besides.

Excellent notes are provided by Barry Peter Ould, the consultant for the series. Definitely one to watch.

★ Worth hearing

★★ Worth considering

★★ Worth buying

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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 1996



■ MUSIC

Anne Sofie von Otter carries off a major honour at *Gramophone's* annual awards



■ THEATRE 1

It's a strange, compelling evening of Greek drama, as the Romanians stage *Les Danaïdes* in Birmingham



■ THEATRE 2

Lack of tension mars the drama of *The Lodger*, a 'Jack the Ripper' potboiler in Stratford East



■ OPERA

Peter Hall's fine production of *La traviata* opens Glyndebourne Touring Opera's season in style

MUSIC: Today's *Gramophone* awards confound the prophets of doom, says John Allison

Still a few spins left in the classics

When the 1996 *Gramophone* awards are presented at the Savoy today during the classical record industry's biggest annual party, few of the 400 guests will be worrying about the crisis supposedly besetting the business. For a couple of hours they will be able to focus — champagne permitting — on the good news: a clutch of superb recordings covering every corner of the repertoire.

The awards, instituted by *Gramophone* magazine with a low-key event 19 years ago, have grown beyond recognition. Their clout extends well beyond *Gramophone's* readership — winning recordings are signposted in shops both here and abroad — and in a hyper-led market they have come to be trusted. More widely influential than the Grammies, they concentrate almost exclusively on music and performance, without the categories such as Best Sleeve Design that turn up elsewhere. The arbitrary selection of one disc above fine competitors can be unfair, but if there have to be awards, they might as well be these.

Record companies, not all noted for self-effacement, can be justifiably proud of winning — especially this year, since the adjudication process was more democratic than ever. Voting forms have always been circulated to the panel of *Gramophone* critics, but in the early years the companies themselves were invited to nominate recordings; this sometimes resulted in 90 titles being submitted by record executives afraid of leaving out an over-sensitive artist. Nowadays the editorial panel trawls through the year's issues and chooses about 30 discs per category, but all the critics are at liberty to add to the list, and all have a vote once a panel of specialists has reduced each category to a manageable half-dozen.

But until now the Artist, Debut Artist and Record of the Year awards have all been in the gift of the editorial department. This year six of the magazine's leading critics

met with the editors to elect these winners — and, in the spirit of *Gramophone*-style glasnost, allowed me in.

What this more open process disclosed was healthy, heated debate and a lack of consensus, but the secret ballot prevented the more powerful personalities from bullying others. There is always a certain inevitability about prolific recording artists winning the big prize, but all these categories require the comparison of uniques — a flaw in the BBC Young Musician competition, too — and the nominations ranged widely. At least someone was tactful enough to place Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu on separate lists (Artist of the Year and Debut Artist of the Year respectively), though they would doubtless have won something had there been an "Item of the Year" category.

Which brings us back to the record industry's identity crisis, although Alagna and Gheorghiu are not the only artists who this year seem to have performed more in the recording studio than in public. Should records reflect faithfully what is happening in the live musical world, or can they be an "art form" in themselves? Lines get blurred when opera recordings are cast with stars who have never undertaken roles on the stage, or the prospect of a lucrative recording apparently affects casting or programming.

The power of the big record companies is one of the subjects that excite such propects of doom as Norman Lebrecht, and with some justification. But the major labels have less control of the market than before: EMI, for instance, is making 47 classical records this year, about half the number it released five years ago, while independent labels are proliferating. Some of the small companies may save money by employing obscure radio orchestras and unknown artists, but others — such as Hyperion, Chandos and Collins Classics in this country — use their modest

budgets imaginatively to record rare repertoire.

Indeed, the amount of music available on disc must be one sign of health in the industry. When CDs first appeared, nobody thought the new format would match the LP for its range of works, but the recorded repertoire is now wider than ever, not least in contemporary music, where previously a living composer had to be a Very Big Name to get into the catalogue. Too much standard repertoire is still being duplicated, but no longer at the expense of the neglected works that are being recorded, often methodically, for the first time. Historical issues make up another growth area, and companies have been quick to respond to the rich archives from behind the Iron Curtain.

While cutbacks among the big companies do suggest a certain unease in the record industry, it is not the only part of the music scene to be in flux. Old hands in the business say "Crisis? What crisis?" and argue that it has always been unstable. But in a changing market, it is the big companies which are in danger of being left behind, unable to react quickly because they are tied to contracts negotiated

years ago that may also run beyond 2000. It is hard not to detect a sense of panic in the pop-style marketing of chanting monks and wet-T-shirted violinists.

Most of *Gramophone's* readers occupy the more serious end of the market where sales are slow. Record companies advertise heavily in the magazine, and each depends on the other. But *Gramophone's* editorial director, Christopher Pollard, defends his position: "A reader expects *Gramophone* to be the best informed medium on the subject. I don't believe that we could publish a magazine like *Gramophone* if we didn't expose ourselves to the industry's hopes and aspirations, its disappointments and frustrations."

By "frustrations" he means the complaints that come when unfavourable reviews are published. "We have very naked discussions, because they sincerely believe that their artists have been misinterpreted. But they trade on the integrity of the magazine every time it says something positive, so they have to accept the negative reviews. I believe there are still people in certain companies who haven't forgiven me for what we said about a record ten years ago."

THEATRE: Modern conclusion to an Ancient Greek tragedy left in the lap of sadistic gods; Jack the Ripper bores audiences to death in the East End

Send in the bald, naked husbands

Les Danaïdes
National Indoor
Arena, Birmingham



Some of the 50 ill-fated would-be husbands in Silvia Purcari's *Les Danaïdes*

AT THE end of this strange, compelling evening the Greek gods — waxen, white-suited figures — warn against the perils of hubris. They appear to be referring to the Danaides, a vast phalanx of virgin sisters who have been spectacularly punished for murdering an equally vast phalanx of unwanted husbands. But there was a side of me that wondered if their words weren't also aimed at Silvia Purcari, the Romanian director giving Aeschylus' *Danaïdes* what has been cautiously described as its world premiere.

Actually, only the first part of the *Danaïdes* trilogy survives. *The Suppliants*, as it's called, is almost never performed, partly because it is so inconclusive. Danaïdes' 50 daughters, sickened by the

idea of marrying their 50 first cousins, flee from Egypt to sanctuary in Argos. Their would-be spouses then arrive by ship and, after sending a herald to terrify them, beat a retreat. And that is that.

What happened in the play's two sequels? Nobody really knows, but presumably the Argives, got married and were killed by their wives. Much was doubtless made of Hypermentra, the only Danaïde to spare her husband, and Lyceus, the lucky survivor. What seems certain is that Aeschylus' denouement was upbeat, reverent, and altogether different to the one imposed on him by Purcari, who makes little of Hypermentra, less of Lyceus, but a lot of gods who treat the poor Danaides with the gloating sadism of SS troops.

Aeschylus doubtless regarded the Danaide invasion as a formative moment in what would become Greek civilisation.

As his programme-note suggests, Purcari thinks of it as one of the founding myths of a suffering, divided Europe.

That is as may be. What is certain, though, is that he does

some magical things with the

French-speaking chorus of 100 he has carted through Europe and is now taking to the Dublin Theatre Festival via Birmingham and Glasgow.

The 50 Danaides could look ridiculous in their long blue costumes, especially as they carry what look either like white sunshades or bits of Berlin Wall, depending on whether these are being used as picnic baskets or barricades.

Similarly with 50 wooers

who come with orange skirts and bald heads, like Hare Krishna hoodlums. But then the women flutter, scurry, mew like seagulls and fall

like dominos. Meanwhile, great swaths of men aggressively frolic, caw like rooks and collapse en masse, knives in their foreheads.

Purcari's gods may come

from Euripides, Becker

and Kafka, than Aeschylus.

But there is something intimately thrilling in the sheer presence of a 100-person chorus.

And Purcari drills it so deftly that you cannot doubt its menace, its vulnerability, or whatever he wants. That is Aeschylean enough for me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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TIME OUT

Alan Bullock on a re-examination of the German resistance to Hitler, doomed by lack of cohesion and the Führer's power and luck

Between 1938 and 1944 as many as 15 attempts were made to assassinate Hitler. In only two cases, however, was he in danger and the final attempt, on July 20, 1944, not only failed but led to sweeping arrests and the execution of many of those involved.

What difference it would have made if Hitler had been killed is impossible to say. What was certain was that, if the plot failed, those who had attempted to alter the course of history would be condemned by most Germans as traitors and dismissed outside Germany as irrelevant.

Joachim Fest believes that is too simple and, in a book originally addressed to a German readership and translated here by Bruce Little, re-examines the history of the German Resistance with the object not of adding to what is already known about it, but of looking at it in a different context.

Instead of concentrating his attention on the events of July 20, 1944, Fest shows this to have been a last, despairing attempt in a succession of such plots, beginning with the plan to seize Hitler in September 1938 and so prevent war. This was undercut by Britain and France accepting the partition of Czechoslovakia by the Munich Agreement.

Those who became involved with the resistance put themselves at risk day and night, in a society permeated by the Gestapo and its informers. They are drawn by Fest as a loosely connected collection of individuals, with very different

PLOTTING HITLER'S DEATH
The German Resistance to Hitler, 1933-45
By Joachim Fest
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 92774 4

views (for example, on the use of violence), and motivated by a revolt of conscience, a matter of personal character, rather than a unifying ideology. The only thing they shared was their detestation of the evil regime under which they lived and of the man who personified it.

Much of the time was spent in debating the principles on which a future Germany would be created after the Nazi regime had been demolished. There was no agreement on going beyond that and either arresting or killing Hitler. Those prepared to consider that ran up against the formidable protection provided by the SS and Hitler's own inward luck.

Only the Army could carry out a coup d'état, and it was among a group of younger officers, particularly those holding staff and intelligence appointments, that such action was discussed. Their hope both between 1938 and 1939, before



Hitler, with Mussolini, inspects the damage done to his headquarters by the bomb of July 20, 1944

the defeat of France, and between 1942 and 1944, after Stalingrad forced the Germans into retreat, was to persuade one of the generals holding command over troops to act. None would take the risk. Only then, in a gesture close to despair, with Germany facing defeat and the Gestapo closing in on the conspirators, did the 37-year-old officer Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg decide to act on his own.

Fest understands the bitterness the conspirators felt at their "betrayal" — as they saw it — by the Western powers, particularly the British, who made no response to their approaches. But he sees that this was an example of their basic mistake, making their actions dependent on events they could neither foresee nor control. "In the fall of 1938, they made their coup contingent on Hitler's going to war and on a firm response from

Britain and France. Later they made their activities dependent on Hitler's victories and defeats: victories, they felt, made him popular and therefore unassassable, while defeats laid them, his internal enemies, open to accusations of abetting the downfall of their own country. The conspirators did not overcome this basic flaw until shortly before July 20, 1944."

In the end, the whole story of the German Resistance is one of fail-

ure. But suppose one accepts, as Fest does, that it is virtually impossible to overthrow a totalitarian regime from the inside, especially one as powerful as Nazi Germany, then a different picture emerges. It is no longer the record of failure that matters: "The particular heroism of the German Resistance resides precisely in the hopelessness of the conspirators' position. It was no longer success or failure that was decisive. All that remained was to leave a dramatic sign disavowing Hitler and everything his regime stood for, 'tout que coûte' — 'whatever the cost'. The purpose of July 20 was the gesture itself; it was its own justification."

This view is supported by the trial. Six hundred were arrested and many of them subjected to brutal tortures. Time

and again, however, those wanted

by the police gave themselves up, in the belief that the show trial which Hitler planned could be used as a forum for denouncing the Nazis. Defying the bullying of the judge, the odious Freisler, the prisoners in the dock succeeded so well that on August 17 Hitler forbade any further reporting of the trials, or any mention of the executions.

It is impossible to say how far

Joachim Fest's revisionist plea will alter general opinion in Germany where it is "virtually lost to history". But for myself I have no doubt that he is right. No one put it better than Henning von Tresckow, one of the officers who never wavered. He took his own life rather than waiting to all he knew about the Resistance extracted from him by torture and his last words were written down by a fellow conspirator, Fabian von Schlabrendorf: "Now they will all fall upon us and cover us with abuse. But I am convinced, now as much as ever, that we have done the right thing. I believe Hitler to be the arch-enemy, not only of Germany, but of the entire world... Just as God once promised Abraham that He would spare Sodom if only ten just men could be found in the city, I hope that, for our sake, he will not destroy Germany. No one among us can complain about his death, for whoever joined our ranks put on the poisoned shirt of Nessus. A man's moral worth is established only at the point where he is prepared to give his life for his convictions."

These words stand as an epitaph for those who, like Tresckow and Stauffenberg, had the courage, despite their failure, to maintain in the name of Germany their repudiation of Hitler and the Third Reich.

Lord Bullock is founding Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and the author of Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Lives (Fontana).

THE MANSELL COLLECTION

The toils and troubles of the chattering class

Howard Davies on the caustic return of a novelist who doubts we could construct a just society

After five years' silence Margaret Drabble has returned with a bang. *The Witch of Exmoor* is a novel about social justice. In chapter one — a family reunion — the dramatic personae discuss John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*. They play a dinner party game called "The Veil of Ignorance". In it, you have to work out "the kind of society which you would be willing to accept if you didn't in advance know your own place in it". You have to imagine yourself in "the original position of choice" where you don't know if you will be rich or poor, influential or powerless, talented or underprivileged.

Drabble — whose authorial voice is powerfully present throughout — does not seek to elaborate the rules of her own just society; nor do her characters articulate theirs. That is perhaps fortunate from the standpoint of readability. But the plot offers a kind of running commentary on the extent to which contemporary British society matches up to this testing criterion, or is, instead, constructed only for the benefit of the cosseted middle class.

The witch of the title is Frieda Haxby, an elderly writer self-exiled to a gloomy semi-derelict pile on the edge of Exmoor, overlooking the Bristol Channel. Her son and two daughters are all married and successful in London life. Frieda is a writer, engaged on her memoirs. (Perhaps Ms Drabble, who spends time at Portlock Weir these days, has met her type in the fleshpot of Minehead.) Frieda is also, for reasons which are not entirely

THE WITCH OF EXMOOR
By Margaret Drabble
Viking, £16
ISBN 0 670 87228



Drabble: lifting the veil

clear, ill-disposed towards most of her offspring and their families.

And so is Ms Drabble. She paints them, first, in two dimensions. They are, it would seem, devoted couples. But all is not as it appears. They are smug, complacent. They are riding for a fall. We should not be too surprised. Their society is not just. We shall see how they suffer.

Why am I writing like this? Because Ms Drabble does. It can be tiresome, as you see.

But what is more interesting is that the insistent authorial voice takes pleasure in the misfortunes of these not — especially — wicked representatives of the English chattering classes. She visits misfortunes on them — a son's drug addiction, a friend's

messy suicide — with malicious glee.

And, with only one exception, they end up in a state below their original position. All sins are punished severely. One character comes in for an "unjust", though unmasked for, inference: he becomes clinically depressed.

It is hard to escape the conclusion that Ms Drabble doesn't like us any more. She exhibits an acute case of what Marxists used to call alienation. She thinks we are nothing like as nice as we look. We are trivial; we are hypocrites. We acquiesce in a society which we would not construct if we didn't know what our place in it would be. And we are beyond redemption: "The middle classes of England ... would any of them wish for change? Given a choice between anything more serious than decaffeinated tea or herbal tea, would they dare to choose?"

I believe she overstates the case. We are not as bad as all that — and perhaps less hypocritical than most. Perhaps our society does not come up to John Rawls's testing standard. But it is hard to think of any which do, or did. And one of our strengths is that we harbour, in our midst, caustic chroniclers like Ms Drabble.

This is a powerful novel, which handles big themes in a brusque, muscular, chin-leading style. Indeed its prime fault is brevity; sometimes one wishes that she would pause for breath. At the end, I wished it had been twice as long.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.



This decorous 19th-century vision of George III's Coronation in 1761 is not matched by Horace Walpole's acerbic version of the event

The hesitancy of his delivery takes off from the force of his arguments

Duncan Fallowell

HORACE WALPOLE
The Great Outsider
By Timothy Mowl
John Murray, £19.99
ISBN 0 7195 5619 8

page is served by widespread use of late-20th-century gay parlance such as "size queen" or "outing" especially since there is no actual evidence for Walpole's ever having had sex with anyone at all.

What has been taking place is an attempt by Timothy Mowl to match the sophisticated eccentricity of his subject — he's been reading too many of those wonderfully vivid and opinionated letters. This is a recurring blemish on a book which otherwise contains many delicious things.

It is both original and rewarding of Mr Mowl to present Walpole as England's 18th-century Proust. Less analytical than Proust, he is just as effective in conveying the entire doings of a milieu and is far more informative. Such an association also points up the modernness of Walpole's eccentric, often mischievous personality.

The shape of Walpole's life, its social, political and cultural features, come through very clearly. In particular, a lot of effort has gone into the reconstruction of Walpole's emotional infatuations, most of it speculative but most of it plausible. Mowl subtiles him the Great Outsider but, as the author admits, he was the great insider too. Rarely indeed have the two aspects come so opportunely together.

This enabled Walpole to relate, for example, in his description of George III's Coronation at Westminster Abbey, how when the new young Queen Charlotte retired to a special "convenience" set up for her behind the high altar, "what found she but — the Duke of Newcastle perched up and in the very act upon the anointed velvet close-stool!"

At the end of Walpole's life he rediscovered Paris because, then as now, it was not ageing like London: "One is never old here, or never thought so... the first step towards being in fashion is to lose an eye or a tooth..."

He died on March 2, 1797. I have been unable to locate in this text the day, or even the year, of his birth.

SATURDAY
John Naughton on Alec Guinness, Claire Bloom and Joan Collins
Marcel Berlins on Patricia Cornwell
Bevis Hillier looks back on 100 years of Country Life

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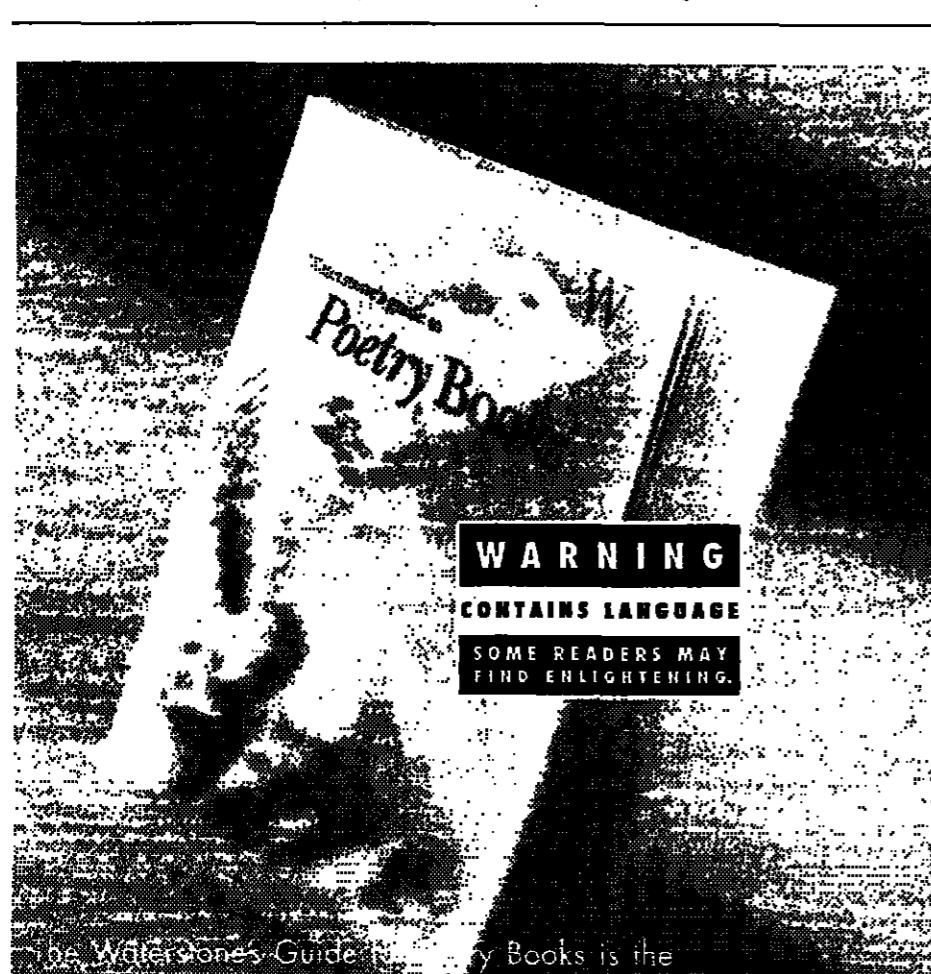
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WATERSTONES



Deaf to blasts ecstasy

Peter Ackroyd joins Harold Bloom in rejecting the bankrupt spirituality of 'New Age' beliefs

Deaf to the blasts of ecstasy

It was Benjamin Disraeli who on discussing the question of whether man evolved from apes or angels, declared "I am on the side of the angels". He is not alone. One of the most remarkable statements in Harold Bloom's *Omens of Millennium* concerns the level of piety, or credulity, among the American public: 69 per cent of that population believe in angels, and 46 per cent are persuaded that they do indeed "have their own guardian angels".

Professor Bloom suggests that this "angelicism" is the consequence of early 19th-century millenarian yearnings, epitomised by the revelations of the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith in 1823, but the early Puritan brethren of New England were also vouchsafed omens and visions. Burning a witch in Salem is only a step away from wearing "cherub pins" in New York. To believe in angels, after all, also implies a belief in demons. This is a country apparently permeated by religious, or at least religiose, fantasies.

Professor Bloom in fact cites four such fantasies as indicating what he describes as "American millennial hysteria" — the trust in angels, the belief in prophetic dreams, the fashion for "near-death" experiences, and expectations of the end of the world. It is an impressive list, even by biblical standards, but for Professor Bloom it represents a weakening and vulgarisation of any authentic religious spirit. He describes these phenomena as part of "Aquarian, or made-in-American, gnosticism", and an indication of a spurious hermeneutic which has nothing whatever to do with European Christianity. In his previous work, *The Western Canon*, Bloom thoroughly rejected all the fashionable pieties of current literary criticism and espoused the virtues of an authoritative tradition. Here, in *Omens of Millennium*, he similarly rejects the debased "New Age" gabble of America's high priests and even higher priestesses.

He is particularly fierce on the subject of angels. They were once terrifying and formidable creatures. Muhammad faints at the sight of one; St Paul distrusted them; in the *Book of Enoch* they descend from the skies and ravish young women, begetting a monstrous brood of children. They are not necessarily nice to know, in other words, and hardly a suitable subject for a tie-pin. That, of course, is Professor Bloom's argument. The contemporary world has lost its dread of angels, and instead has turned them

OMENS OF MILLENNIUM
By Harold Bloom
Fourth Estate, £15.99
ISBN 1857025555

into the insipid figures of current angelology who stop traffic accidents and help old ladies across the road. Otherwise they are reborn as aliens or "UFOs", lighting up the sky of the mid-West in all the colours of Walt Disney. The authentic terror and mystery of creation are missing in a society which lacks a true spiritual inheritance.

That is why Professor Bloom suggests that the camp followers of the "New Age", and other forms of fake "enlightenment", make some effort to understand the genuine tradition of which they are the ragged and bankrupt heirs. "Belief in angels, by most of us," he writes, "is belief in false miracles, and is an offence against God". He then proceeds to explore the true gnostic tradition in some detail; he touches upon Zoroaster and Hermes Trismegistus, Blake and Emerson, the kabbalah and the Gospel of Thomas.

One element of that faith maintains that the God of this world, worshipped in synagogues and churches and temples, is a most cruel and deceitful demon; the true God, sometimes known as the "Divine Man" or "Man of Light" has been separated from humankind and continually laments his estrangement from us. Yet he remains an inalienable part of us, according to gnostic theory, just as we are an aspect of him.

This belief is conveyed by the gnostic Valentines in a fragment that begins "From the beginning you have been immortal, and you are children of eternal life". There is a particle of eternity within us, after all, beyond the accidents of Creation and the fall into time. Bloom himself has a wonderful description of this condition, when he notes that there is "something in the self that cannot die, because it was never born". If he were not a literary scholar, he might have been a prophet.

A careful reading of this book does in fact suggest that there are certain insistent patterns of belief to be found in a variety of apparently disparate faiths, and might therefore confirm the studies of some cultural historians who have outlined a *proto-*



Made-in-America gnosticism: Angel, by Wisconsin sculptor Fred Smith (d.1976), from Angels in Art (Abbeville, £15)

sapientia or ancient wisdom which has entered the consciousness of various races and tribes. Professor Bloom traces the Sufi belief in the four forms of the astral body, for example, which bears a striking resemblance to William Blake's wonderful and apparently self-conceived notion of the "Fourfold Vision".

It has nothing to do with those "near-death" experiences and divinatory dreams of which the American public is so fond. These are delusions, fuelled by a tortuous self-regard and vapid benevolence. They are hallucinations which are, in the words of Bloom, "impoverished by our incapacity for spiritual ecstasy". He is in fact very good and sensible on the

nature of dreams. He quotes the Talmudic saying that "All dreams follow the mouth", which can be taken to mean that they can be endlessly and still correctly interpreted.

Dreaming is also a means of gaining access to the apparently infinite number of images, texts and symbols of which the cerebellum is composed — as Bloom suggests in another memorable phrase, "we die solitary deaths, but dream communally". In that context he attacks Freud for not becoming a prophet, and therefore not fulfilling his inheritance. Freud remains a central figure of the 20th century, but he will no doubt be remembered as a

novelist of emotion rather than a seer, he refused to recognise the prophetic power of dreams, for example, and in that lack of visionary understanding he betrayed himself.

It is an interesting argument — all of Bloom's arguments are interesting, although there are occasions when they are maintained at such a high level of theory that they may confuse the unwary. But this is an engaging and refreshing book. It is also a necessary one, in that it may help to reintroduce the texture of the spiritual world within the increasingly tattered fabric of material reality. That is why Professor Bloom's perceptions are so important and, in a millenarian setting, so timely.

COLIN THUBRON'S latest novel, *Distance*, is a love story told backwards, from beyond the brink of disaster. It recalls Thubron's *A Cruel Madness*, in which the unreliable Daniel Pashley reconstructs his ill-fated passion from within the walls of a mental institution. *Distance* does not deal in madness, but takes on its fragmentations: at the novel's outset, Edward Sanders suffers from inexplicable amnesia. He "wakes up" in a town in Wiltshire, unsure of how he got there, his last memory more than two years old.

As they emerge, the details of his life are as unknown and fragile to Edward as they are to the reader: he is a post-graduate student in astronomy, but cannot recall the substance of his work. Visiting his parents, he finds his father bereft and is forced to live a second time the grief of his mother's death. He returns home clutching scattered images of his lover, only to discover that the woman with whom he lives is not she.

What inevitably ensues is Edward's gradual recollection of self, and the approach towards his irretrievable beloved, who lingers like an ominous force in the shadows of his consciousness. Her name is Jacqueline Everard and is, like him, an astronomer. Jacqueline is independent,

Too far a stretch

Claire Messud

DISTANCE
By Colin Thubron
Heinemann, £15.99
ISBN 0 434 00257 7

ungraspable: Edward's love for her is doomed by its strangling intensity. In this instance, the turning point comes on a trip the lovers take to Indonesia, where Edward is tested, and falls short. There are, ultimately, dark consequences to his failure.

Distance, while slight, is atmospheric. Thubron's prose, at times overripe, captures Edward's disjointed alarm, his groping and fumbling in the labyrinth of memory. Edward's images of Indonesia are magnificent — a gift Thubron carries from his travel writing. Of diving with Jacqueline, for example, Edward recalls the subaqueous terrain: "The whole wall was fissured with petrified flowers,

sea-fans, gorgonians and starfish, and perforated by the soundless trumpets of cup corals. If we looked up we saw whole shoals suspended and translucent against the sunlight."

UNFORTUNATELY, neither Edward's British surroundings nor his passion for black holes can match this glory. Early on, before his mental vision returns, Edward marvels, "I can't imagine having been in Indonesia." Nor, in truth, can this reader. Jacqueline, who lured him there, remains too murky to comprehend. In spite of his devotion, she fails to live in the novel. Meanwhile, muted Edward suffers the curse of English reserve to an extreme, and unlike his predecessor Pashley, experiences no attendant insanity with which to fire his lukewarm spirit. Amnesia seems his ideal fate: it leaves behind pure potential. What he re-lives, in the end, neither kindles nor convinces.

Distance is a risky undertaking, and its risks are reminiscent of Thubron's earlier fiction. There, he has more than proven his success. It seems then, a curious compulsion to revisit this familiar narrative — a compulsion doomed, perhaps, like Edward and Jacqueline, or Daniel and Sophia, from the outset.

Refusing to take the easy way out

Andrew Roberts

THE QUEEN
A Biography
of Elizabeth II
By Ben Pimlott
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 000 255494 1

background who might be suspicious of new, so-called designer diseases.

Bradford famously went into non-specific detail about Prince Philip's alleged lovers. Pimlott contents himself with references to "girlfriends" in the index which do not end at the 1947 marriage. "His head may occasionally be turned by a pretty face" is almost all Pimlott allows himself, before he returns to the activities of the famously taciturn Buckingham Palace press officer, Commander Colville, whose refusal to enter into even the most innocuous details about the Royal Family earned him Fleet Street's sobriquet "The Abominable No-Man". One is left rather nostalgic for that Queen of Hearts you didn't already know. The lack of sympathy that the real Queen showed Diana over her butchery is perhaps understandable for someone of her age and

Pimlott's criticism of the Queen's choice of Alec Douglas-Home over Rab Butler in 1963, when she was bamboozled by the wily old Macmillan, sitting up in his dressing gown in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, almost makes her into an *ex officio* member of what Iain Macleod later denounced as "the Magic Circle". This is going too far, although it must be accepted that an outgoing Prime Minister must be among the very worst people to consult for an objective judgment as to his successor. Far from regretting her loss of prerogative, as Pimlott assumes, the Queen probably sighed with relief when in 1965 the Tories decided to elect their leaders, rather than rely on the "emergence" process.

Although 1963 was her toughest call, there have been many other uncomfortable moments. She has had to undertake distasteful tasks, such as awarding Nicolae Ceausescu an honorary knighthood, or continuing for years to employ Sir Anthony Blunt, KCVO, despite know-



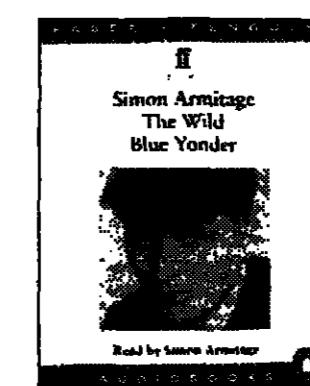
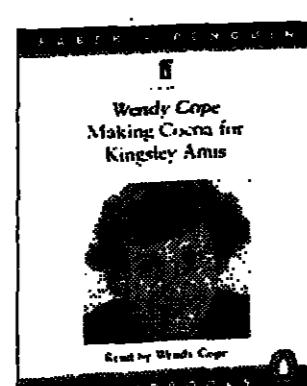
The Queen with Mandela in July

live, the Queen rules as well as reigns. No less than 41 per cent of Britons have dreamt about her at some stage in their life. Usually the context is social, with the dreamer committing an embarrassing *fauve pas*. So for all her well-attested ability to put people at their ease, she is the ultimate non-spiritual authority figure. Shelley believed poets were mankind's "unacknowledged legislators". Today it is this commander-in-chief of society's Respectable Tendency.

The overall impression is of a monarch who, politically at least, has reigned in a manner remarkably free from error. In our post-deferential, *Splitting Image* age, she is still greatly admired, and the Golden Jubilee of 2002 will doubtless occasion a massive outpouring of genuine affection. "I must not take the easy way out" was her childhood motto (strangely reminiscent of Queen Victoria's "I will be good") and as this eminently fair and highly professional study reminds us, she never has.

**Listen.
Poets that speak for themselves.**

Published for National Poetry Day 10 October 1996.



OTHER POETRY TITLES AVAILABLE ON FABER • PENGUIN AUDIOBOOKS:

The Spirit Level and Stepping Stones by Seamus Heaney, read by the author. *The Whistler Weddings* by Philip Larkin. Stephen Spender's *The Still Centre*, read by the author. *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. *Four Quartets* and *The Wasteland* by T.S. Eliot.

**Return to Sorrento?
Not yet, thanks**

MORE THAN 7,000 people die on the roads of Italy every year, more than double the number in Britain. And after six days on the Italian Riviera I am surprised the figures are not higher.

Italy has been taken over by the car, lorry and motor-bike. To be a pedestrian in a town such as Sorrento is to offer yourself as a slow-moving target for macho young men in sporty cars, screeching and buzzing scooters, and coach drivers who speed around corners on roads no more than a few inches wider than their vehicle.

The problem may be at its

Cheap air fares lure business travellers

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

CUT-PRICE airlines are wooing tens of thousands of business travellers from roads and railways to the fast-expanding network of domestic and European air services.

The growth in business air travel is also being enjoyed by scheduled airlines, which are spending millions of pounds on improved facilities for business travellers. But low-cost airlines such as EasyJet, Debonair and Ryanair are enjoying the biggest growth.

Ryanair says 45 per cent of its passengers on the Stansted-Prestwick route travel on business.

A passenger survey shows it attracts customers from small businesses who pay their own fare or will make a speculative sales visit if low fares are available.

Ryanair charges from £49 return to Prestwick compared with British Airways' or British Midland's round-trip fares of £240.

Meanwhile, London City airport is enjoying a big increase in popularity. In September it increased the number of passengers by 23 per cent to 73,195 and more airlines are trying to join the 13 that already operate from the Docklands airport, serving a total of 18 European cities.

Air UK is increasing its frequency of flights to Amsterdam from the airport from

worst in Italy, where once-restful towns such as Sorrento are being battered by the motor vehicle, but it is rapidly becoming a universal one.

Individual towns can do little to curb the threat of injury and pollution on the Continent's main roads. But they can do a lot to improve the quality of life for their own inhabitants and for the tourists taking short city breaks in ever greater numbers.

And an example of what can be done lies a few miles away from Sorrento across the Bay of Naples. On Capri, visitors' cars are forbidden. Transport is by a handful of licensed taxis, by cablecar or by bus. The streets and squares are left almost exclusively to pedestrians and the economy is booming. Tourism chiefs from other popular tourist cities and towns would do well to study what Capri has achieved and to see whether it could be copied and even improved on.

Tour operators such as Thomson that feature Sorrento and claim to care about the environment could lead the way. Why take a coach from Sorrento to Pompeii along over-crowded, winding roads when the train is faster, cleaner, stops outside the ruined city and is much cheaper?

From next month Thomson is offering twin-centre breaks in Sorrento and Capri. Thomson could also offer, whenever possible, train rather than coach trips. Such a move, especially if backed by others such as Citalia and the German giants Tui and Neckermann, could goad local councils into action.

If the tour operators and the local authorities continue to ignore the problem, few of the 538,996 visitors who filled the 93 hotels in the immediate area last year will bother to return to Sorrento.

South Africa opens up to cheaper holidays

BY TONY DAWE

A HOLIDAY in South Africa for less than £500 has become a reality following deals which allow new airlines to fly routes into the republic which used to be dominated by British Airways and South African Airways.

Britannia Airways has begun charter flights from Gatwick to Johannesburg and Cape Town and has signed agreements with tour operators to offer cheap holiday packages to a country which used to be one of the more expensive to visit. The airline has been granted rights in the South African courts this week to sell half its charter seats on a flight-only basis.

Virgin Atlantic has also started scheduled flights three times a week from Gatwick to Johannesburg and its holiday

company plans to introduce packages for the 1997-98 winter season.

Britannia's deals include an agreement with SARtravel of London which is offering a week in Johannesburg from £499 and a week in Cape Town from £608 on a limited number of November flights.

Bluebird Holidays, which pioneered charter flights to South Africa, is offering a £349 return flight to Johannesburg this month which will increase by £100 next month. These prices compare with APEX fares of more than £700 on scheduled services.

Wexas, the club for business and independent travellers, is also entering the South Africa bargain stakes by offering members a £399 return fare to Johannesburg.



The Vatnajokull glacier eruption is making a mint for the Icelandic tourist trade

Tourist boom for Iceland

BY MARTIN SYMINGTON

TOUR operators to Iceland are reporting a surge of interest in the country as the drama of volcanic eruptions beneath Vatnajokull glacier goes on.

Steina Palsdottir, director of Arctic Experience, which takes more than 3,000 British tourists a year to Iceland, said: "We were inundated with calls on the morning after the eruption was first reported. Some people were merely checking that the holidays they had booked would be safe, but many more want to know if it is possible to see the volcano in action."

The situation is under review, but the answer, according to Ms Palsdottir, is yes. "We can arrange trips, though we have strict rules about

where individual travellers may and may not go. Our flyers insist that they do not travel east of Vlk. We are also organising special escorted tours which will include a flight over the volcano."

The icecap is melting and will eventually run south to the Atlantic, but when and how, and with what consequences, nobody can tell."

According to Mr Sigurdsson, many callers want to know whether it is safe to visit Reykjavik. "The capital is 300 miles away and unaffected," he said.

● Arctic Experience (0173 218300) is organising a five-day four-night special tour of Iceland from October 17-21, including a two-hour sightseeing flight over the erupting volcano; price £498.

Ski injury claims climb 40%

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE COST of medical claims for ski injuries has risen by more than 40 per cent in the past two years, jumping from an average of £431 a claim to £545, says Columbus Travel Insurance.

The company predicts that more than 700,000 Britons will ski this season and that 13,000 will have to return home early because of serious injury.

Although the number of injuries is expected to remain static, the cost involved is rising sharply.

June Philpot, marketing director of Columbus, said: "While more people are taking out travel insurance some are still failing to recognise its importance, especially for winter sports. Yet skiing without travel insurance is like trying to descend the piste without skis. Insurance is essential."

Suite dreams for £2,100 a night

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

THE Savoy Group yesterday unveiled the first phase of a £62 million renovation of its London luxury hotels, including the restoration of the Front Hall at the Savoy Hotel to its original 1924 design and the opening of two new penthouse suites at Claridge's believed to be London's most expensive at £2,100 a night plus VAT.

Ramon Pajares, managing director of the group, which also owns the Berkeley and Connaught hotels, announced a Perfect Room Programme to ensure standards are maintained. "This involves two or three people spending several hours in a room making sure everything is in top condition," he explained. All rooms will get this treatment at least twice a year.

Some £18 million has already been spent on the Savoy, with the Front Hall restoration undertaken by designers David Linley and Nina Campbell.

bell. New air conditioning has been added and the plumbing modernised.

"It was important to get the essentials right for our guests," Mr Pajares said.

More than 2,000 new telephones have also been installed throughout the group, with modern systems such as voicemail now available.

The two new penthouse suites on the seventh floor of Claridge's have a private roof terrace with views overlooking London. They each have two bedrooms, two bathrooms, dressing room, large sitting room and dining facilities, a private elevator and a personal butler. The rooms were designed by Veere Grenney.

At the Berkeley, the rooftop swimming pool is being refurbished and is due to reopen, along with a new health spa, early next year. Two new executive boardrooms have been added.

Ferry merger could bring monopoly

BY STEVE KEENAN

MERGER talks between Brittany Ferries and P&O European Ferries could leave holidaymakers with no choice on crossings to western France next year.

The two are locked in negotiations about a possible merger along the lines of the P&O-Stena Line deal announced last week on the "short-sea" Dover and Newhaven routes.

Unlike the Dover deal, in which P&O is the lead partner, taking 60 per cent of profits, Brittany Ferries will be the dominant partner on the western routes.

Brittany has more than half the five million passenger market on four western routes, while P&O takes roughly two million on two routes and Stena Line the rest on its Southampton-Cherbourg route.

But Stena is considering the future of the route. A fast ferry is an option or more ships could be deployed from Dover. Should Stena axe the route to concentrate on the Irish Sea, a merged company would be the sole operator on the western Channel.

However, a joint merger would certainly attract the attention of the Office of Fair Trading. Pooling of services with no equity deal is also being considered as a fallback.

David Longden, Brittany's operations director, pledged this week that no routes would be cut except Pdole-St Malo.

Iberia cuts domestic air fares

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE state-owned airline Iberia has begun a legal battle over an alleged plot to prevent it from competing with state-backed French airlines.

BA claims that a bid by AOM, a French regional airline, to buy the near-bankrupt Air Liberte is designed to stop foreign airlines from obtaining take-off and landing slots at key airports and to curb competition on French regional services.

BA is calling on the European Union to block "with the utmost urgency" the offer, which BA says is illegal use of state aid. The British airline has long been frustrated in its attempts to break into the French market. Last year it made an unsuccessful bid to buy loss-making AOM, an offshoot of the state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais.

The bank was also losing money and a record state injection of cash was approved to keep it afloat. As part of the deal it had to dispose of its holdings in AOM. That has not taken place and, according to BA, the money given to keep AOM afloat is being used instead to buy another loss-making airline Air Liberte.

BA claims that its attempts to buy AOM or even to obtain details of how much Air Liberte is worth have been blocked and that French officials openly admit that whatever happens, foreign airlines will be prevented from obtaining slots at Paris Orly airport.

A BA spokesman says: "All we want to do is bring air travellers in France the same benefits that British passengers enjoy from free and open competition. Yet we seem to be frustrated at every turn by the French authorities."

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Visitors urged to escape to Colditz

BY DAVID ALTHEER

A NEW battle is being fought for Colditz, the Saxony castle that became a prison for British and other Allied officers during the Second World War. The medieval fortress is famous for the large number of men who tried to get out, but now the Germans want to attract people in.

Built in 1046, the castle had fallen into decay after almost half a century of East German ownership. But this spring a Colditz Castle Community (CCC) was formed with the help of the Colditz Association of British veterans and the UK-based Colditz Society to raise funds to make it a prime tourist attraction.

Though there has long been a museum in the castle, suggestions such as turning the castle into a hotel have founders because of bureaucratic inertia and doubts about helping the town to cash in on its grim wartime history. But

Herr Jens Mahlmann, CCC's chairman, says: "History has made Colditz castle a place of international interest." The existing Escape House exhibition is to be moved from a small room to two floors, where it will show videos including the 1954 John Mills feature film *The Colditz Story*, and a BBC documentary, photographs taken by the Nazi security police and other wartime items. Work has already started on a restaurant on the "Glider Floor", from where an escape attempt was made by prisoners who built a glider.

The castle will also be connected to electronic media. A home page on the Internet has been created at the suggestion of Dr Antony Anderson, the son of William Anderson, who repaired Douglas Bader's artificial legs in the castle forge when they were PoWs.

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مكتبة الأصل

A wealth of quite wonderful things

Next Tuesday, the sixth annual Lapada Arts and Antiques Fair comes to the Royal College of Art in Kensington, west London, and the wealth of items on offer virtually guarantees that this will be the best show ever. Lapada is this country's largest association of art and antique dealers and nearly 60 of its members will be exhibiting for sale a fine array of just about everything you can think of: silver; jewellery; ceramics; glass; paintings; rugs; clocks; bronzes; textiles; and most strongly of all — a great deal of superb furniture.

Among my favourite pieces is a pair of chinoiserie glass-fronted display cabinets — these are Chippendale style and period from Ireland (c. 1770) and the patina and proportions are excellent: about £80,000 from Cavendish Fine Arts. The Country Seat is primarily known for the best quality 19th-century furniture designed by prominent artists, designers and architects and this year they are offering a magnificent example of the genre — a large oak doorway by A.W.N. Pugin in the form of a glazed bookcase lined with beautifully tooled leather dummy book spines. It was probably made by cabinetmakers J.G. Crace (best known for their work in the Brighton Pavilion); a unique and covetable piece at £15,500. The same company is also offering an outstanding and handsome pair of large Carrara marble lions (c. 1860). These are attributed to

Alfred Stevens and are priced at £17,500 the pair.

Among the smaller items of furniture, I particularly like a Windsor elbow chair in yew with an elm seat (c. 1850) — a handsome and sturdy piece with a good cruciform splat, and identical to the chairs in Oxford's Bodleian Library Reading rooms: £1,700 from Bugle Antiques, which also has a wonderful selection of alternative Windsor chairs ranging from £1,200 to £6,000. Attractive, too, is a rare George II jardinière, c. 1753. This splendid octagonal tidded wine cooler, with its original lead lining, is mahogany and stands four-square on unusual carved cabriole legs, terminating in hoofs: £3,500 from Butchford Antiques.

The most dazzling examples of silverware are from Marks Antiques: four mighty George III silver entree dishes of 1816, on antique Sheffield plate-warming stands by Matthew Boulton: £175,000, the set. Among a fine selection of porcelain at the fair, an elegant pair of early 20th-century Royal Worcester ewers is outstanding — graceful in pierced white with gold embellishment and in pristine condition: David Main is offering the pair for £13,000. More Worcester of the same period

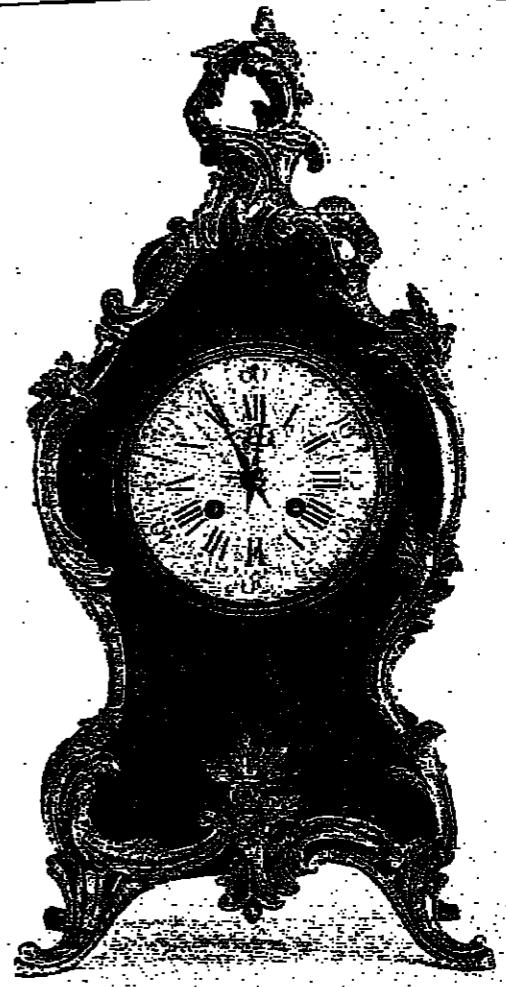
(c. 1910) is offered by Valerie Main — a pair of 12in-high painted porcelain vases with covers (£12,000). Two different timepieces stand out: a rare and unusual tortoiseshell mantel clock in Louis XV style (c. 1870), as ornate as you would expect and with typical rocco ormolu decoration — £2,850 from Arenski Fine Art. And rather more to my taste is a stained frosted-glass clock by René Lalique c. 1900. This is alive with birds and flowers and stands on its original wooden plinth — good value at £2,800 from Art Nouveau Originals.

An Aubusson carpet is offered by Lida Lavender: an extraordinary and complex colour scheme perfectly complements the architectural motifs and geometrical design: it is a mid-19th century and £48,000. Smaller and cheaper items include a rare Bリストon enamel tea caddy from Rogers de Rint (c. 1780). This decorative item, adorned with colourful repoussé flowers, is priced at £2,500. The floral theme is continued in a fine series of mid 17th-century copper plate engravings of tulips, irises and lilies — a set of 24, available singly at £600 each from Dinan & Chughte.

• The Lapada Show is at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 from October 15 to 20. Weekdays 11am to 8pm, weekends 11am to 6pm. Admission £10 single or £16 double.



A pair of Carrara marble lions (£17,500, J.G.Crace) and a rare tortoiseshell clock (£2,850, Arenski)



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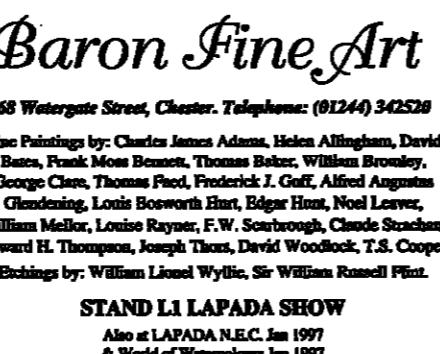
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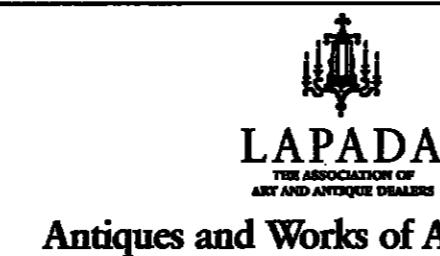
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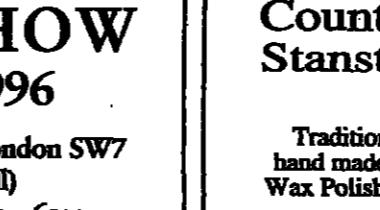
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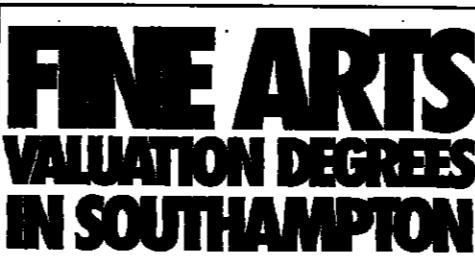
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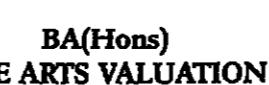
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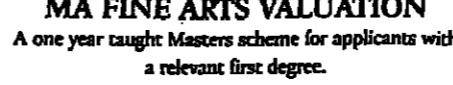


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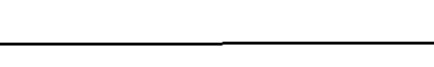
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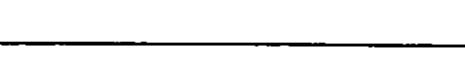
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Law Report October 10 1996 Chancery Division

Claims by investors not validly assigned to compensation scheme

Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v West Bromwich Building Society Same v Hopkin & Sons (a Partnership) Alford and Others v West Bromwich Building Society Armitage v Same

Before Mr Justice Evans-Lombe Judgment October 9

Whereas a cause of action might constitute a claim or entitle capable of assignment, there was no authority for the practitioner that part of the remedies available to the owner of that chose to enforce his ownership could be separated from his cause of action so as to constitute an assignable chose in action in its own right.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe so held in the Chancery Division when dealing on preliminary issues.

It upon the true construction of the standard Investors Compensation Scheme claims forms:

(a) damages or equitable compensation for undue influence, misrepresentation, breach of duty, and/or breach of warranty;

(b) an account of sums owing between the Alford and Armitage investors and West Bromwich Building Society "after abatement or adjustment in respect of the claimed damages and/or compensation" made by those investors (a had not been validly assigned to the ICS, and b could be pursued by the said investors).

2 That the claims advanced by ICS had not been validly assigned.

ICS was established under the provisions of section 54 of the Financial Services Act 1986 pursuant to which there were brought into existence the Financial Services (Compensation of Investors) Rules 1990.

Investors suffering losses as a result of breaches of the rules obtained compensation from the scheme by submitting claim forms which under section 54 of the forms required a declaration that the claimants had received no

compensation of any kind and confirming that they did not expect to receive any in the future.

A further construction stated that ICS would take over all claimants' rights and claims against third parties on the payment of any compensation as described in the transfer of rights at section 4 of the form.

Section 3(1) of the claim form provides: "ICS agrees that the foregoing claim shall not be treated as a third party claim for the purpose of this agreement and the holder of such claim shall insure to you absolutely."

Any claim "whether sounding in tort or for undue influence or otherwise" that he had or may have against the West Bromwich Building Society, in which you claim an abatement of sums which you would otherwise have to repay to that society in respect of sums borrowed by you from that society in connection with the transaction and dealings giving rise to the claim (including interests in any such sums.)"

Section 4 provides: "We agree that in the event of our receiving money or assets in respect of the claim from the participant firm or from any trustee appointed under the Financial Services Act 1986 we will forthwith pay or transfer them to ICS."

Section 6 provides: "We hereby assign to ICS each and every third party claim and the benefit thereof under the Act."

The two preliminary issues for decision were:

(i) Whether, upon the true construction of the express and if any implied terms of the ICS claim form, any (and if so which) and to what extent of the claims which the Alford and Armitage investors advanced ... have been assigned to the ICS and (b) if so, whether such assignment is valid and effective, and what consequence (if any) it has to the ability of those investors to maintain the actions.

(ii) Whether, upon the true construction of the express and if

any implied terms of the ICS claim form and in the light of the answer to issue 1, any (if so which) and to what extent ICS advances ... have been assigned to the ICS and (b) if so, is such assignment valid and effective and does it enable the ICS to maintain the actions."

Mr Nicholas Strauss QC and Mr Neil Kitchener for the Alford plaintiffs; Mr David Oliver, QC, Mr Andrew Hochhauser and Mr Vernon Flynn for West Bromwich Building Society; Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, Mr Denis Brock, solicitor, and Mr Guy Marples, for ICS; Mr Justin Fenwick, QC and Mr Mark Cannon for Hopkin & Sons, solicitors, Mansfield.

MR JUSTICE EVANS-LOMBE said that on August 29 he had ordered the preliminary issues to be tried.

ICS was a body established under the 1986 Act and the Rule made thereunder to administer a scheme for the compensation of investors in cases where persons authorised to conduct investment business under that Act were unable or likely to be unable to satisfy claims made against them in connection with their investment business.

The claims concerned those resulting from the failure of Fisher Preys-Smith Ltd ("FPS"), an independent adviser regulated by FIMRA, an authorised person under the Act.

FPS was responsible for the promulgation to the public of an equity release scheme known as home income plans ("HIPS"). The scheme failed.

West Bromwich Building Society was one of a number of building societies involved as financiers of such schemes. Investors who had lost money had claims to recover their losses both from the financing building societies and from professional firms, primarily solicitors, who, it was said, had advised them to enter into the schemes.

To deal with the resulting mass litigation various test cases had

been selected illustrating the typical issues arising. Those were grouped into two streams.

The first stream of 20 claims was representative of claims by investors arising from failed HIPS, administered by West Bromwich Building Society and various professional advisers, involved in cases where that society was the financier, the C & G case.

The second stream, the FPS stream, grouped 15 claims as representative of similar claims made by investors against West Bromwich Building Society and various professional advisers, entirely solicitors, involved in cases where that society was the financier in which the FPS case.

On November 1, 1995 His Lordship gave judgment in *Investors Compensation Scheme Ltd v Cheltenham & Gloucester plc*. The issue in that case raised substantially the same questions as those raised in the second issue in the instant case but on the way to deciding it, his Lordship was required to deal with questions which would largely determine the first issue in the instant case.

In the present case, as in the C & G case, the issue concerned the construction of the same two documents described as "claim forms" in substantially the same form. Although some of the issues to be determined referred to "the claim form" in the singular there were two such forms, the second, containing certain additions and omissions from the first.

The addressees simply made explicit what would have been implicit in the first form. In the instant case, the further groups of parties in addition to a defendant building society appeared.

The first group divided into two and were referred to in the issues as the "Alford" and "Armitage Investors" who had also issued separate proceedings against West Bromwich only.

They claimed: (i) rescission of their mortgages with West Bromwich on terms; (ii) a declaration that their mortgages were held

on trust by West Bromwich; (iii) damages and abatement or adjustment in respect thereof; (iv) that the mortgages be declared unenforceable or re-opened by the court under the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

Since the Armitage plaintiffs were entitled to make any claims different from those advanced by Mr Strauss, the Alford investors withdrew.

The second group of parties comprised the solicitor defendants.

The Alford and Armitage investors were referred to in the statement of facts as "the individuals" and Mr Strauss contended that notwithstanding the assignment provisions in favour of ICS contained in the claim form, by reason of the inclusion of section 3(b), they were not entitled to pursue against West Bromwich the claims for compensation arising from the various damages claims in addition to the basic claim to have the transactions between them and West Bromwich rescinded.

It was his contention that that was their entitlement on a true construction of the claim form including section 3(b).

Having summarised and considered Mr Strauss's submissions on behalf of the individual, His Lordship gave his reasons for rejecting the building society's submissions as in construction in the C & G case in which he had said:

"It seems to me plain from the claim forms themselves and from the surrounding circumstances in which they came into existence ... that the intentions of the parties to the claim forms must have been that the ICS was to take from investors, as consideration for the payment of compensation, an assignment of all claims which the investors might have against both Aylebury and others which could be shown to have been wrongfully with the exception that there might be left to be pursued by investors claims which they were individually more suited to pursue."

That is, the claim to rescind and

any consequential claim to reduce the amount due to the building society which would have to be repaid as part of restitution consequent on such rescission.

His Lordship remained of that view and in consequence rejected both of the alternative submissions as to the construction of section 3(b) advanced for Mr Strauss.

Mr Fenwick submitted, inter alia, that if rule 2.10(1) of the ICS Rules was to be construed as capable of making effective against third parties assignments of claims within its provisions, it was ultra vires the provisions of the relevant rule-making power in section 54 of the 1986 Act and in particular subsections (1) and (2).

His Lordship having considered all these submissions and those of Mr Vos, concluded that it was impossible to statutory object to the system of assignment of claims in action in the medium meaning of "in action" as described as "all personal rights of property which can only be claimed or enforced by action and not by taking physical possession".

The fundamental problem was that a chose in action was to be differentiated from the remedies which the owner of that chose could obtain from the court in order to enforce his ownership.

A cause of action, for example, expressed by him in the C & G case that rules giving effect to the assignment of third party claims to a management company were intra vires the rule-making power in section 54(1) of the 1986 Act.

His Lordship then turned to the question whether the subject matter of the assignment contained in section 4 of the claim forms, when qualified by section 3(b), constituted a chose in action capable of assignment at all.

That point was not argued in the C & G case but was taken by all three counsel against Mr Vos. In his skeleton argument Mr Strauss put the point in the following terms:

"However, it is submitted that on the ICS construction the purported assignment of a remedy in respect of a cause of action, in circumstances in which a mutually

exclusive remedy is left with another party, is void."

So far as the Alford plaintiffs are aware there is no authority for the proposition that a remedy can be derived from its cause of action so as to constitute a chose in action capable of assignment in its own right and it is submitted that such a supposed assignment leads to inconsistent results in litigation which is contrary to public policy and that any such purported assignment should be held to be void on that ground."

That submission was also the centrepiece of Mr Oliver's brief but helpful submissions whereby he drew attention to the definition of a chose in action in paragraph 1 on page 2 of volume 6 of *Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edition, 1990) which in the medium meaning of "in action" because those claims would be primarily for negligent advice, they would not seem to be subject to the same difficulties as the assignment of claims against West Bromwich while retaining a right against West Bromwich to rescind.

However, that was to disregard the solicitors' rights to join West Bromwich in a claim for contribution bringing into play again all the difficulties in different hands.

The only logical conclusion was that the attempted assignments of the solicitors' claims were also ineffective because those claims constituted only some of the remedies which were available to the assignor investor prior to the assignment, to be compensated for the loss occasioned to him by being compelled to enter into an HIPS transaction.

His Lordship had expressed reluctance in coming to his decision because of the impact of such a result on the litigation which meant that there had been no valid assignments to ICS.

Solicitors: Barnett Sampson; Eversheds, Birmingham; Clifford Chance; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Council duty to help destitute

Regina v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council Ex parte M Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council Ex parte P Regina v Westminster City Council Ex parte A Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council Ex parte X Before Mr Justice Collins Judgment October 8

A destitute asylum seeker who had no money and therefore lacked the means of supporting himself, could be said to be "in need of care and attention" within the meaning of section 2(1)(a) of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended, so as to impose upon a local authority a duty to provide him with accommodation as defined in section 2(5).

Mr Justice Collins so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division, granting four separate applications for judicial review by the applicant asylum seekers, M, P, A and X against local authorities' refusals of assistance under section 22(1)(a) of the 1948 Act, as amended by the Local Government Act 1972, the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, the Children's Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

Section 22 of the 1948 Act, as amended, provides:

"(1) Subject to ... this part of this Act, a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct, shall make arrangements for providing— (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them."

"(5) References in this Act to a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct, shall make arrangements for providing— (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them."

The applicants sought help from the local authorities under section 22(1)(a) of the 1948 Act. Their only connection with the relevant authority was that they were sleeping rough or had been living temporarily.

The authorities denied that they had any responsibility to act under section 22(1)(a) because the applicants were not in need of care and attention within the meaning of the expression "in need of care and attention".

The meaning of the phrase "in need of care and attention" depended on its context. Potentially it had a wide ambit. In ordinary English usage someone who was unable to provide for himself the basic necessities of life could properly be said to be in need of care and attention. It was clear that the words "or any other circumstances" in section 22(1)(a) were intended to cover eventualities not foreseen and to ensure that there was a safety net to protect those who were in need of care and attention.

The whole purpose of the 1948 Act was to ensure that no one would be left destitute because of an inability to find for himself.

Subsequent amendments did not change the construction of section 22(1)(a). Rather they confirmed the intention that the subsection should be available as a safety net for those unable to fend for themselves and who were therefore in need of care and attention.

The words "any other circumstances" were free standing categories which, although they had to be construed in their context, were not restricted by any notion of physical or mental weakness other than such as were inherent in the expression "in need of care and attention".

If Parliament really did intend that in no circumstances should any assistance, other than hospital care, be available to those asylum seekers, it had to say so in terms.

If it did, it would almost certainly put Parliament in a bind in the 1990 Act. His Lordship found it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not lawfully be removed from the country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness and even death because he could find no one to provide him with the bare necessities of life.

If Parliament really did intend that in no circumstances should any assistance, other than hospital care, be available to those asylum seekers, it had to say so in terms.

It was said that applicants needed only money, not care and attention. The point was that they could not get money and without which they could not fend for themselves.

Section 22(1)(a) was a provision of last resort. Local authorities were entitled to satisfy themselves that there was truly no other source of assistance available and that accommodation within the meaning of the section 2(5) was needed to provide for the bare necessities of life.

Solicitors: Clore & Co, West Kensington; Mr C T Mahoney, Hammersmith; Mr J Curran, Lambeth; Mr C Wilson, Westminster Treasury Solicitor.

M R JUSTICE COLLINS said that each applicant was an asylum

seeker who, because he failed to make his application on arrival in the United Kingdom, was ineligible for any social security benefits or for housing under the Housing Act 1985, by virtue of sections 9 in 11 of and Schedule 1 to the Asylum and Immigration Act 1993, passed as a result of the Court of Appeal decisions in *R v Inhabitants of Eastbourne* (1803) 4 East 103, where Lord Ellenborough, *Lord Chief Justice*, had said: "As to there being no obligation for maintaining poor foreigners before the statutes ascertaining the different methods of acquiring settlement, the law of humanity, which is anterior to all positive laws, obliges us to afford them relief, to set them from starving..."

Although the "law of humanity," which His Lordship interpreted as the protection of fundamental rights, could not prevail against the clear words of a statute, it was to be presumed that Parliament had legislated in accordance with it.

Upon its true construction, therefore, section 22(1)(a) imposed a duty upon the local authorities to provide for the applicants if satisfied that any of them ... (a) were in need of care and attention, and that such a need might exist where a person was unable to provide for himself.

The applicants did not frustrate the will of Parliament in enacting the 1990 Act. His Lordship found it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not lawfully be removed from the country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness and even death because he could find no one to provide him with the bare necessities of life.

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For those reasons the local authorities had adopted a policy of not carrying out a construction of section 22(1)(a) and had to reconsider whether the applicants had to be assisted.

The right to life was a fundamental human right which the law would protect. That is consistent with the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Such legislative provisions as those in the 1948 Act do not discriminate against persons to whom Community law gave the right to equal treatment or restrict the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty.

A national procedural rule such as that in issue was liable to affect the economic activity of traders from other member states on the market of the state in question, although it was not discriminatory in itself. Such a rule could be discriminatory if it had the effect of placing such traders in a less advantageous position than nationals of that state as regarded access to its markets.

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SQUASH

Shenton displays emerging talent

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN PETALING JAYA
MALAYSIA

YESTERDAY'S charge by six English players into the third round of the Perrier women's world open squash championship here was inspired not by Suzanne Horner, the national champion, who progressed later in the day, but by Tracey Shenton, the 19-year-old British junior champion.

Shenton shook the world open seedings with a resolute 70-minute 9-4, 9-7, 8-10, 6-9, 9-6 second-round win over the No 13 seed, Rebecca Macree, of Essex, which earned her an unexpected encounter with the top-seeded defending champion, Michelle Martin, of Australia, today.

In the only all-English match of the day, Shenton, from Stone in Stafford-

shire, led the combative Macree 2-0 and 7-2 in the third game, and then fought back from 5-0 down in the fifth to record her best senior result.

"I have been training back home for 12 weeks to be ready for this tour," Shenton said. "I wanted to start with the World Open and to be fit as possible. Now I have nothing to lose against the defending champion, so I can go for it again."

Horner overcame Rachael Grinham, of Australia, 4-9, 9-6, 8-2, 9-1 in 41 minutes while Sue Wright, another member of the England squad, beat Jade Wilson, of New Zealand, 2-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-0.

Wright and Fiona Geaves meet today in the bottom half of the draw, probably for the right to play Horner in the quarter-finals. Also in the bottom half, Linda Charman, who yesterday defeated the former world No 2, Danielle Drady-Harte, 5-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-0, faces Carol Owens, of Australia.

In the top half of the draw, along with Shenton, is Cassandra Jackman, who defeated Toni Weeks, of Australia, 9-0, 9-5, 3-9, 9-5, yesterday with a forceful performance marred only by an awkward collision in which she cracked her nose against her own racket, sustaining an injury serious enough to require ice treatment later.

Briton maintains perspective as title pursuit nears finishing straight

Hill ready to write happy ending

oliver Holt ponders questions of success and failure with Formula One's world champion-in-waiting



Hill and Georgie, his wife, above, have both made great sacrifices in pursuit of his world title dream. She was with him in Hong Kong this week as he prepared for the final, decisive race of the season

I don't know if it is the love of winning it or the fear of losing it that motivates me more," Hill said. "In some ways, the thought of losing has to be the stronger motivating factor because we all have instincts and the ultimate loss is death, actually losing your life. That has got to be more motivating than another rung up the ladder."

"But there is also this other thing which is fear of winning. That to do with not knowing what to do next. If I was to win, I would not have the object of my strivings any more. It is achieved. What is there after that? Then perhaps I will be lost because I no longer have a goal. My whole life has led to this point. Should I achieve my goal, what then?"

"It is like the saying that it is better to travel than to arrive, that the satisfaction comes



from the struggle." Then a smile and his laughter lightened his thoughts. "Right now, I think I could deal with that, with winning it," he said.

"It is impossible to sit here and say just what it would mean. The championship has been my objective and what I have put everything of myself into and what I have made all my sacrifices for, things like our wedding, my time, my hours in the gym. Since I started racing, I have been pushing myself towards the top and this is the top."

"In some respects, it is wrong to regard it as the most important thing in your life because my family is most important and really and truly life will go on whatever happens. But it is what I want and it has consumed every emotion

that I have and my entire being, and I would hate to ... well, that is the thought that is not entertained."

Hill got here a week ago, keen to arrive early so that he had plenty of time to banish

the jet lag that clings to him more than most. From their suite atop the Peninsula Hotel, he and his wife, who arrived on Sunday so as to minimise the time spent away from their children, Oliver, 7, Joshua, 5,

and Tabitha, 15 months, can see the sweep of the crowded harbour and the mountain in the New Territories at the base of which she lived when her father was stationed here in the Army 20 years ago.

They left yesterday afternoon on a four-hour flight to Nagoya with Hill's manager, Michael Breen. From there, a minibus took them to their hotel in the grounds of the Suzuki circuit, two hours away. His holiday is behind him now. His thoughts and his nerves are focused on Sunday's race. Georgie is so tense she does not think she will even be able to watch it. All this despite the fact that Hill, who will race for the TWR Arrows team next season, will start Sunday's grand prix as the overwhelming fa-

vourite to clinch his first title. He has seen a championship slip away from him before in the final race, in Adelaide two years ago, when Michael Schumacher drove him off the road. For him to lose out a second time would be too cruel. Even Schumacher feels Hill deserves the title.

The only man who can deprive him of the championship, his Williams-Renault team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve, has to win the race to have a chance of overtaking the Englishman. Even if Villeneuve achieves that, though, Hill needs only to finish sixth to score the point that will give him the glory instead.

Only rogue elements can stop him. A collision with a backmarker, plumes of smoke from a blown engine, these are the images of his nightmares.

They are, he said, things over which he has no control. His only real dilemma about the Japanese Grand Prix is how hard to try to win it.

"Qualifying will be crucial," he said. "It is a fairly safe bet that Jacques and I will be on the front row together but, if I can put it on pole, that will

'If I drove round with one hand on the wheel, I could come sixth'

give me a better chance of avoiding trouble at the start. This will be my last race for Williams and I would dearly love to win it because you never know how long it is going to be before you get a chance to win another race.

"But I have to weigh that up against the bigger prize, which is the championship. If I just drove round with one hand on the wheel, I could come sixth. That's all I need to do, in a way, it's more difficult to do that than to win the race. If I don't win it, I am working on the assumption that Jacques will."

The point about this weekend is that Jacques and I are really in two different races. My objective is to win the championship and, in order for Jacques to win the race, he has to win the race. I only need one point if he does that. We are on two different agendas.

"He is off the hook as far as having to be cautious or tentative. He has no option but to go to Suzuka, and try to win the race. It is a different frame of mind driving with nothing to lose. I have led the championship all season and I am still there to be shot at. But now I have a pretty straightforward job to do to win it. My sights are set on finishing off that job."

INTERVIEW

Australia ponder spinning options

AUSTRALIA may deploy a three-pronged spin attack for the one-off Test match against India, which begins today, after seeing the state of the pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi. Brad Hogg, a left-arm spinner, and Peter McIntyre, a leg spinner, are in the squad of 12.

Australia could also call on Mark Waugh's off spin after he took six for 68 in the second innings of Australia's warm-up match against the Indian Board President's XI that ended in a draw on Monday.

Title triumph

Tennis Chris Wilkinson, of Hampshire, has won the Lawn Tennis Association circuit title by reaching the semi-finals of the Autumn Satellite Masters in Sheffield. He beat Arvind Parmar, the national junior champion, from Hertfordshire, 6-4, 6-2 and meets Robbie Koenig, the No 5 seed, from South Africa, today.

Samantha Smith, the new British No 1, is one of three home players to get a wild card for the Texaco Ladies' Challenger event at the Welsh National Tennis Centre in Cardiff next week. The others are Abigail Tordoff, from Kent, and Monique Javer, a former British No 1.

Christmas fare

Rugby league Leeds and Bradford Bulls are to play a pre-season match at Headingley on Boxing Day. St Helens and Wigan have also taken advantage of the Rugby Football League decision to allow Christmas derby fixtures, despite the sport's move to a spring-summer season.

Dowd doubts

Hockey Alan Dowd, the Ireland captain, is a doubtful starter for the World Cup preliminary tournament semi-final against New Zealand in Cagliari today. Dowd sustained a back injury in the 4-2 defeat of the United States last Thursday.

Losses denied

Olympic Games Games officials yesterday denied reports that the Atlanta event had lost money. Francois Carrard, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) director-general, said the IOC had not yet received a final financial report.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 1996

SPORT 43

RACING: FASCINATING RHYTHM'S VICTORY BRINGS UP CENTURY FOR WARREN PLACE TRAINER

Cecil offers another classic pointer

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

TRAINERS are creatures of remarkable habit, none more so than Henry Cecil. Down the years, he has often waited until the leaves have gained their autumnal hue before dispatching a potential classic prospect to Nottingham racecourse.

Oh So Sharp, the outstanding triple crown winner of 1985, began her career at Colwick Park, sited little more than a furlong from the River Trent. Slip Anchor went on to win the Derby after a racecourse debut in Robin Hood.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LOVE HAS NO PRIDE (4.00 York)
Next best: Multicoloured (2.30 York)

country and 12 months ago Cecil sent Dushyantha, runner-up in this year's Derby and St Leger, to the well-tended Midlands venue where he made a winning start.

By the time the horsebox carrying Fascinating Rhythm arrived at Nottingham for the EBF Fillies Stakes yesterday the world and his wife appeared to know that the stamna-endowed daughter of Slip Anchor was Cecil's latest seasonal offering.

Carrying the colours of Helena Springfield, the company that enjoyed 1,000 Guineas success in 1979 with One In A Million, she was sent off a



Fascinating Rhythm, ridden by Eddery, makes a successful start to her career in the EBF Maiden Fillies' Stakes at Nottingham yesterday

shade of odds-on and favourite backers never had an anxious moment once Pat Eddery went for home about three furlongs out.

Fascinating Rhythm galloped on strongly for a workmanlike success which not only provided Cecil with his 100th victory of the season but also attracted a 33-1 quote for next year's Oaks from Coral.

That price could be made to look generous given the post-race remarks of Eddery and

Simon Sweeting, assistant to Cecil, who was at Goff's sale.

"She was a bit green but will improve a lot for that. She has a lovely temperament as well," Eddery reported.

Sweeting added: "Pat was delighted with her and she really looks like a filly for next year. She had to work today but she has beaten fillies with good form. I would not want to compare her with anything at home but she has always looked a pretty useful animal."

Ever since the days of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck, Sherwood Forest has been loath to give up its secrets but if Jeremy Glover's hunch is correct the legendary woodland may be partly responsible for his remarkable record in the Cambridgeshire.

Glover, who won the race for the fourth time from just five runners with Clifton Fox last Saturday, explained yesterday: "I train only about four miles from that famous old

oak tree where Robin Hood and his merry men supposedly met and ever since I started training, my horses have always been better in the autumn. Why, I'm not sure, but it may be something to do with the pollen in the forest."

The horse are definitely better in the autumn, so I thought that if I got a good handicapper the thing was to find a decent handicap in the autumn — the Cambridgeshire."

The trainer added: "If they are improving at this time of year you are one step ahead of the handicapper."

Whether Clifton Fox is still ahead of the official assessor is a mute point. The progressive four-year-old has been raised 9lb for his comfortable 2½-length success at Newmarket. Glover is now considering running him in a listed race at Newmarket early next month or in the November Handicap at Doncaster.

Bosra Sham stays in training

BOSRA SHAM, the 1,000 Guineas winner, will miss the Breeders' Cup meeting later this month, but will stay in training next season.

Watie Said's filly, who lost her unbeaten record when runner-up to Mark Of Esteem in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, will have her final race of the year in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket on October 19.

"Bosra Sham definitely stays in training," the owner's racing manager, Tim Bulwer-Loyd, said. "The plan is the Champion Stakes and as long as she pleases us in her work she is a definite runner."

Meanwhile, at Longchamp

today, the John Gosden-trained Decorated Hero runs in the listed Prix Eugene de Savoie. Decorated Hero was the fourth of Dettori's seven winners in a day when he ran away with the Tote Festival Handic平 at Ascot last month. He will be ridden by Thierney Jarnet in the mile contest.

He is one of three British raiders in a six-runner field, along with Ed Dunlop's Cadeaux Tryst (Tim Sprake) and David Loder's Master Boots (Oliver Peslier).

Pick of the home team could be Criquette Head's Cloud Forest, who was a good second To Byzantium at Newmarket next week.

Longchamp's feature race on Sunday, the Grand Critérium, sees the return to action of Revocive. Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt who won the Prix de la Salamandre last month, is one of the leading contenders for next year's 2,000 Guineas. By Fairy King, he shares the same sire as Are winner Helios and Chapple-Hyam's Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Turtle Island.

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YORK COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S bin Surour, 7 winners from 13 runners, 53%; D Loder, 10 from 35, 28.6%; H Cecil, 29 from 112, 25.9%; E Weymouth, 3 from 21, 23.8%; M Prescott, 3 from 15, 20.0%; J McEvoy, 10 from 59, 17.3%; P McCoy, 4 from 34, 17.6%; G Wragg, 6 from 39, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: G Duffield 9/6 15.0%; T Quinn, 15 from 151, 10.0%; K Fallon, 11 from 110, 10.0%. Only qualifiers.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.10 KESARTA 2.40 Southerly Gale. 3.10 Indrapura. 3.40 Lake Of Loughrea. 4.10 Cointosser. 4.40 Courbier.

GOING: FIRM

SIS

2.10 BATHERLEIGH MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE (2.16; 200 m) (4 runners)

1. 005 GALTAKORI JANE 08 P Hatchell 6-11-10 ... O Barnes (?)

2. 001 HERTFORD BUCHANAN 11 05 P Hatchell 6-11-10 ... R Barnes (?)

3. 002 CAVIARY FALCON 15 06 N Thompson 6-10-11 ... J Callery (?)

4. 049 NUNN CROWN 15 06 N Thompson 6-10-11 ... A P Thomsen (?)

4-6 Indrapura 11-14 Cointosser 5-10 Courbier 5-11 C Kesaria (?)

5-6 KESARTA 12-14 Cointosser 5-10 Courbier 5-11 C Kesaria (?)

7-8 TURPIN'S GREEN 08 P McCoy 6-10-13 ... T Quinn (?)

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7

FOOTBALL: YOUNGSTERS' PROGRESS LEAVES FORMER ENGLAND PLAYER FACING UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Rocastle adrift as forgotten man of Stamford Bridge

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

CHELSEA have made light of their extensive injury problems this season, rising to sixth place in the FA Carling Premiership despite an ever-crowded treatment room. They have done it, too, without the help of David Rocastle, a sublimely-talented midfield player at his peak, yet one who, apparently, now has no more than a bit-part role in the team.

Unlike many of his teammates, Rocastle, 29, has been fit, ready and available for selection by Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager. As the casualties have mounted at Stamford Bridge, so has his expectation of a return. He has not played since breaking a toe in the 3-0 defeat against Blackburn Rovers a year ago — his solitary appearance last season.

Yet the call has not come. "I've been back in training since June and not missed a day," he said. "I don't really know what else I can do to get a first-team place. I'm trying not to feel sorry for myself, but it's very disappointing."

Rocastle's career has gone into gradual decline since his heyday at Arsenal, where he won winner's medals in the league championship, twice, and the Littlewoods Cup. He was also capped 14 times by England. However, a move to Leeds United never worked out and neither did his switch to Manchester City in a swap deal involving David White worth another £2 million. 16

months later. He joined Chelsea for £1.25 million two years ago, but has since been plagued by injuries and loss of form, restricting him to only 40 appearances. He scored two goals in the reserves' 4-2 win over Brighton on Monday, in the Avon Insurance Combination, but still appears to be on the outside looking in.

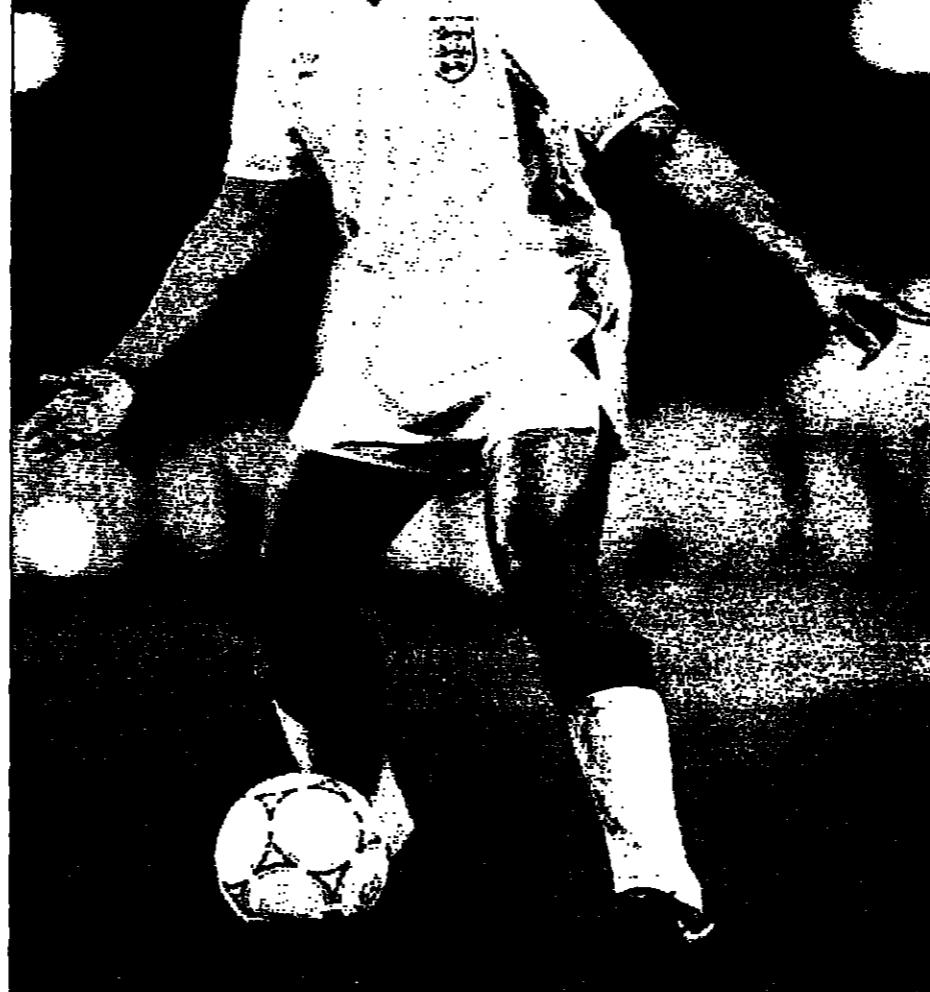
"I suppose it's time to start thinking about my future," Rocastle, who has 18 months

left on his contract, said. "I still feel I can do a job here and all I want is to be given a chance. I don't think Ruud has really seen me play."

In contrast — and suggesting that it may be in Rocastle's best interests to look elsewhere — Gullit has given the nod of approval to Jody Morris, 17, a midfield player, and Mark Nicholls, 19, a striker, from Chelsea's youth ranks.

Morris has won honours with the England schoolboy and youth sides, captaining the under-17s; he made his debut for the under-21s when

High hopes and a higher profile, perhaps, but Morris is keeping a sensible perspective. "I don't think it will affect me," he said. "There's enough people here to put you back in your place if you get any big-time ideas. They all make sure you don't get out of your place."



Rocastle was a familiar figure during his heyday with Arsenal and England

Perez aims to make Romario pay

Tunku Varadarajan on a mismatch of the day coming up in the Spanish first division

president of Extremadura, Pedro Nieto.

Nieto said: "My boy is as professional as Romario is. And I'm sure that he lives more sportingly than the Brazilian." Nonetheless, Ito is still being paid on the terms of his old three-year contract, concluded when Extremadura were in the second division. Why has the player's salary not been raised a wee bit? "We just haven't got the cash," Nieto said.

Spain's first division is now strewn thick with extravagantly-paid foreign stars, like Romario. The Brazilians does not even have to pay rent for his villa as it has been lent to him by a rich Valencia supporter. There are no cows to milk, of course, unlike at Ito's place. But Ito has no bodyguards. Romario has several, who guard him round the clock. There's food for thought in that.

The young footballer is philosophical about his status as the worst-paid player in the league. "I do what I love to do every day, and on top of that I'm paid for it. My unemployed friends tell me that I'm privileged." Others, however, have more sharp-edged observations to make. Ironically, one of them is the

Almadralje, the town of 25,000 people whose unfinanced football team is playing for the first time in the Spanish first division. The fairy-tale promotion story has, this season, turned slightly sour, with six defeats in their six games. But Ito has not lost faith. "A victory, surely, is only a matter of time. Then, on a roll, who can tell what will happen."

The young footballer is philosophical about his status as the worst-paid player in the league. "I do what I love to do every day, and on top of that I'm paid for it. My unemployed friends tell me that I'm privileged." Others, however, have more sharp-edged observations to make. Ironically, one of them is the

Italy provide assistance for Bosnia

ITALY will play an international football match against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Sarajevo next month. Walter Veltroni, Italy's deputy prime minister, will accompany the squad to Sarajevo for the match on November 6.

Mario Pescante, head of the Italian Olympic Committee, said: "The match at Sarajevo stadium is another major step towards the rebirth of sport in a country which has suffered one of the most horrifying civil wars."

The country of Italy has been instrumental in assisting Bosnia's World Cup campaign — the Italian football federation has offered the use of Bologna's stadium for Bosnia's "home" matches, the first having taken place on Tuesday night, against Croatia, which Bosnia lost 4-1.

Primo Nebioli, the Italian head of the International Amateur Athlete Federation (IAAF), organised the first major athletics event there last month, in the Solidarity Meeting for Sarajevo. IAAF money helped to rebuild the Kosevo stadium in the Bosnian capital that will also host the football match.

Impressive display puts Butt in frame

By RICHARD HOBSON

PETER TAYLOR, the England Under-21 manager, believes that Nicky Butt is close to joining his club colleagues, David Beckham and Gary Neville, in the senior ranks after a resounding performance against Poland Under-21 on an extraordinary night at Molineux on Tuesday. "I have been impressed with his attitude and he played very well," Taylor said.

Wolverhampton Wanderers officials convened yesterday morning to discuss the way a parcel of sandwiches, wrapped in foil and deposited in a wastepaper basket in the John Ireland Stand, provoked a bomb scare and caused a 24-hour delay.

The European Under-21 Championship group two qualifying match finally

kicked off at 10pm in front of 3,183 patient spectators who had waited outside the ground in driving rain until an army bomb disposal unit conducted a controlled explosion shortly after 9pm.

Taylor said from the outset that he wanted the game to go ahead last night but Edward Lorenz, the Poland manager, felt originally that it should have been postponed until yesterday morning. Lorenz eventually recognised the logistical difficulties of such a switch but admitted that his players did little more than sit anxiously waiting.

It was no surprise, therefore, that England started the stronger, and had the two best chances of the 0-0 draw. Riccardo Scimeca, of Aston Villa, had a penalty saved, and Emile Heskey, the Leicester City forward, hit a post.

Derby give McGrath chance to leave Villa Park

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DERBY County have emerged as the front-runners in the race to sign Aston Villa's unsettled central defender, Paul McGrath. The Derby manager, Jim Smith, had talks with the Ireland international last night and is hoping to complete the deal in time for McGrath to make his debut against Newcastle United at the Baseball Ground on Saturday.

Derby have agreed to meet the £200,000 transfer fee that Villa are demanding for the 36-year-old, but it is thought that meeting McGrath's personal demands could prove to be a stumbling block. Coventry City, managed by Ron Atkinson, for whom McGrath played at Villa and, before that, at Manchester United, plus two unnamed clubs from the Nationwide League first division have also asked to be kept informed of developments.

Southampton's attempt to sign the Norwegian striker, Thor-Andre Flo, collapsed yesterday because his club, SK Brann, want more money than the £1 million Southampton have offered. Flo, 24, has trained with the south coast club, agreed personal terms and is anxious to join his countrymen, Claus Lundekvam and Egil Ostenstad, at The Dell.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, has spent £2.7 million on Ostenstad, Lundekvam, Eyal Berkowitz, of Israel, Robbie Slater and Richard Dryden recently and has also agreed terms with Galatasaray, his former club, for the Dutch defender, Ulfrik van Gobbel, and the American goalkeeper, Brad Freidel, for a combined fee of £2.3 million.

John Aldridge was yesterday recognised as the highest-scoring British player since the war, without kicking a ball.

According to Ray Spiller, secretary of the Association of Football Statisticians, previous totals had ignored seven goals Aldridge scored in the Spanish Cup during his time at Real Sociedad. His total is now given as 458 goals, three more than the previous record-holder, Jimmy Greaves.

Mark Draper, the Aston Villa midfield player, has been suspended for one match after being dismissed for two bookable offences during last week's defeat at Newcastle United. He will miss the fixture with Leeds United on October 19. Darren Ferguson, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, has been banned for three games after his sending-off against Bolton Wanderers last week and will now miss matches with Port Vale, Manchester City and Huddersfield Town.

RUGBY UNION

Clubs delay breakaway until after secret talks

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) and leading English clubs will meet tomorrow at a secret venue in what must surely be the make-or-break discussions upon which so much depends elsewhere. Should the two parties arrive at a working agreement — and both are optimistic — then Scotland and Ireland could be the knock-on effect.

Tomorrow is also the date set by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) for departure from the RFU, but Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said yesterday that "in the light of negotiations now proceeding and to emphasise our commitment to a successful outcome, it has been agreed that the guideline breakaway date of October 11 is postponed."

Cynics may interpret this as a sign of weakness by the clubs, who would prefer it to be regarded as conciliatory. But as one RFU official put it, "If we do not sort something out, we deserve to be shot." Both sides need the other and, if they can reach agreement, it could help in regard to exiled Scots, Irish and Welsh players who want to appear in representative teams yet are tied, by contract, to club requirements in England.

Five London Irish players, for example, are said to be in breach of contract after training with their provinces in preparation for the Heineken Cup, and two of them, Victor Costello and Malcolm O'Keele, have been named in the Leinster team to play Llanelli on Saturday. Jeremy Davidson and David Humphreys are expected to be named by Ulster today, as is Gabriel Fulcher, for Munster, and there may not be much sympathy for London Irish, who initially decided to release players but changed their minds at the players' request.

The Scotland national squad have achieved what their representatives describe as a "player-friendly contract" with the Scottish Rugby Union and most have signed for a three-year period. Union officials have yet to meet with the 12 England-based Scots to resolve their difficulties. They are due to meet next week.

Meanwhile, the England squad trained at Bisham Abbey yesterday with Jon Sleightholme considering the ups and downs of a sporting career. He played on the right wing of a national England XV but will not play in Bath's team against Edinburgh in the Heineken Cup. Bath prefer Jason Robinson on one flank with Adedayo Adebayo (who also worked with the England XV) on the other.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round replay: Sandlace v Ashford

FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Cambridge City v Wivenhoe; St Albans v Stevenage; Colchester v Watton and Wrenthorpe; Shrewsbury Town v Wimborne; v Witney; Northampton v Bromley A. First qualifying round replay: Ipswich v Hornchurch; Hartlepool v Carlisle

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Chesterfield v Luton; Chesterfield v Luton; v Northampton; v Bromley A. First

qualifying round replay: Ipswich v Hornchurch; Hartlepool v Carlisle

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (In

under-16) (at Gloucester FC)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tour matches: Cumbria v Australian Aboriginals (at Barrow, 7.30)

Lion Red Cup XIII v Great Britain XIII (at Carter Park, Auckland, 7.30am)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Derby (7.30)

GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (at St Andrews, 7.30am)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle v Cardiff (7.30); Bradford v Nottingham (8.0)

SNOWSPORTS: Individual: Billy Sanders International Trophy (at Ipswich, 7.30); Conference League: Sheffield v Bawtry (7.45)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (In

Sheffield)

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Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Dilemma of the sporting victims forced to retire hurt

Can there be a sadder indictment of British sport than the plight of the cricketer, Graham Dilley? The former England fast bowler forced into retirement with a back injury died on Monday to sign on for the date. At 57, the man who played for his country in 41 Tests says he has not been able to find a job since he was made redundant as the Surrey second-team coach seven months ago.

"It never crossed my mind that one day cricket would not be there for me," he said forlornly. "I left school with next to no qualifications and went straight into cricket as a teenager. Right now I would do anything legal."

Dilley is on a path trodden sadly by thousands before him — by all those sportsmen who spent their

careers so busily concentrating on the next race, the next game, the next training session, that they never spared a thought as to how they might live after the final whistle. Yet you don't need the fortune-telling powers of Madame Vassia to predict: "I see the future, and the day will come when you will no longer be able to earn your living playing this game."

The trouble is that, in a world where the importance of sport has become so distorted, it is increasingly difficult to get the sportsmen to think about life after sport.

Today, this stark fact of sporting life is one that has been hopelessly overlooked in Britain. There was a time when sport was something you did and enjoyed before getting on with the real

business of the rest of your life. University students of the Fifties and Sixties could indulge their sporting careers while still qualifying academically. It was a system that threw up athletes who could attack the four-minute mile in their leisure time and walk away to glittering careers. But the world has moved on. The approach worldwide is more professional and the part-time sportsman will get left behind.

There are those aware of the problem and determined to solve it. None more so than Scott Naden, appointed as competitors' employment officer by the British Olympic Association. He is effectively a "career coach". His job includes having to deal with life after sport for those competitors who are so focused that nothing in the world matters beyond their final race.

He is quick to point out that any kind of work for athletes these days presents a paradox. "A great pro-



portion of Britain's Olympic athletes have to have a day-job to get by," he said, "and while this may one day help them in their eventual careers, it actually can work against their sporting performance. The set-up in full-time professional sport is different, of course; those sports clearly have a responsibility to prepare their players for the day when they will have to retire."

Both the Professional Footballers' Association and the Cricketers' Association are aware of the problems and now have schemes to qualify players in fields such as physiotherapy, and the YTS scheme has worked wonders in broadening the education of would-be apprentice footballers. But still many are reaching the end of their careers with no real prospects.

Of course, there are those at the top who make more than enough during their playing days to set them up for life. But, for every Faldo, Christie or Shearer, there are thousands who try for fortune and fail. Naden is concerned for "the many hundreds who make huge sacrifices for their sport, who put their careers on hold and who then don't quite make it to the top".

And he points out: "Only a handful can go on to jobs in coaching and management, and the lure of television and journalism can be very tempting, but very

short-term." The solution for the future may well lie in the example of the past.

In the days before sport became a full-time branch of the entertainment industry, the universities and colleges of this land were a breeding ground of great sportsmen and women. Students

then were a privileged minority. But today, almost a third of young people go into higher education and it is reckoned that, by 2000, one half of all Britain's Olympic team will be students.

Naden believes that the much-talked-of British Sporting Academy, with its prime-ministerial backing and its lottery funding, could provide a focus for dealing nationwide with the problems that sportsmen face when they retire. He has a vision of a network of

schools, colleges and career coaches pointing to a future for sportsmen and women in jobs that make the most of their capacity for hard, disciplined work and their legacy of fitness and health.

It can work. Last Saturday, in a low-key

'Too many end careers with no real prospects'

They finished. And they loved it. Their ages are 68 and 65. And for anyone who thinks that success in sport and tough careers don't mix, their names are Chris Brasher and Sir Christopher Chataway.

JOHN BRYANT

SAILING

Protests follow launch of Melges

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

THE Glenfiddich Melges 24 European Gold Cup got off to a somewhat chaotic start here yesterday when about a third of the 47-strong fleet appeared to be over the start line illegally, but were then not disqualified from the first race.

The race was delayed for an hour and a half because of lack of wind and there were two general recalls in a light sea breeze, before officials hoisted the black flag. Under black-flag rules, any yacht over the line within five minutes of the start should be automatically disqualified.

However, more than 15 boats were caught out by the five-minute gun but were then not thrown out by race officials, to the amazement of the skippers watching the drama from the legal side of the line, who had assumed the offending sail numbers had been taken down.

Matt Humphries, the former skipper of *Dolphin* and *Youth* in the 1993-94 Whitbread Round the World Race and winner of the 1996 Spi Ouest regatta in the

The BT Global Challenge yachts that have opted for the longer route to Rio de Janeiro, hugging the African coast to make the most of the sea breezes, saw their tactical reasoning underlined as *Dolphin* moved up to third after covering 219 nautical miles in 24 hours — a record for the race so far.

Melges attempted to have the race scrapped after launching a protest backed up by accounts from eight other witnesses.

"We were sitting at the port end of the line," he said. "We could see a third of the fleet in the racing triangle and we thought the committee boat was taking care of it. The race has to be scrapped — it's a black-and-white rule."

The race was eventually won by the American, David Chaplin, on *Odyssey*, from Luis Martinez Doreste, of Spain, on *Garvalin III*, with Keith Musto third. He was easily the best placed of the 21-strong British contingent.

Among those who endured an opening to the championship they would rather forget was Mike Lennon, twice British champion in the Melges and winner at Cowes this year. He is one of the favourites to take the European title. Lennon got a poor start and then fell out of the stronger wind bands on the beat and found himself going round the first mark in a most unaccustomed 39th place. At the finish he was 21st. "Nearly all the racing we've done this year has been in medium to strong winds and we seem to be a little off the pace in the light," he said.

The championship has got off to a difficult start, with racing cancelled on Tuesday due to lack of wind and only one race completed yesterday. Last year, the European Cup attracted only 22 boats, but the Melges fleet in Europe is growing steadily despite the relatively high cost of the boats. Nine countries are represented this time with two boats from the United States.

Among the top performers in the field are the defending European title-holders, *Georgio Zucoli*, from Italy. No was sixth yesterday, the Finn, Kenneth Thelen, who finished one place ahead of him, and the Britons, John Merricks and Ian Walker.

CYCLING

Boardman awaits trial judgment on accelerating status

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AFTER Chris Boardman had beaten Bjarne Riis, the winner of the Tour de France, by nearly five minutes in the Grand Prix des Nations time-trial last month, the Dane's team manager, Walter Godefroot, claimed that his man was the real winner. "I do not count Boardman," he said. "He is unreal."

Even in a sport of common-place heroism, Boardman's dominance over the past six weeks has merged truth with fantasy. In football parlance, his record since the Olympics races played 7, won 7, world titles 1, world records 3. His last defeat was by Miguel Indurain in the steamy suburbs of Atlanta, where the heat took its toll during the final stages of the time-trial. He finished behind the Spanish pair of Indurain and Abraham Olano to win bronze and, though, loomed large in Boardman's thoughts on the eve of the race.

Boardman and Zülle will be motivated because the championships are in their country, "Boardman said. "If I was Rominger, I would be after my scalp for taking his hour record."

For all his present dominance, Boardman would happily have swapped his autumn form for better health in high summer. He was hindered by a virus in the early stages of the Tour de France and a bad first day in the Alps cost him any chance of a top-ten place overall, a failure that hit him hard. Though enjoying the best form of his life now and, as ever, basking in the glory of winning back on his old stamping grounds of pursuits

Today, in Lugano, the flying Englishman could add to his score of victories and world titles by winning the world time-trial championship. Tony Rominger, who showed some signs of a return to past form on the time-trial stages of the recent Tour of Spain, and Alex Zülle, winner of that tour, will have the advantage of home support but Boardman's supremacy over a range of distances, from the 4,000 metres pursuit in Manchester, to the 50 km individual time-trial (45.41), 1 km Londo-Coppell (45.07), 2 km Marcal (45.00), 3 km Campolongo (45.34), 4 km Cusano (45.14), 5 km Huelva (45.21), 6 km Cigneti (45.24), 16 km

Aug 29, Manchester: Boardman wins 4,000m individual time-trial in world record of 41min 11sec, shattering own record set in first round by six seconds

Sep 1, Brussels: Wins Eddy Merckx trophy

Sep 8, Manchester: Breaks world hour record with distance of 56.385km First man to break 50km

Sep 8, Utrecht: Wins Joseph Voigt trophy

Sep 15, Karlsruhe: Wins Telekom GP time-trial with partner, Wiebe Pescini

Sep 21, Lac du Madine: Wins 70km Grand Prix des Nations time-trial, beating Bjarne Riis by nearly two minutes

Sep 26, Saal-Lü: Wins Duo Normand with partner, Paul Manning

and time-trials. Boardman knows that rivals such as Indurain have left their best on the long, hard roads of summer. Indurain, injured and heading for retirement, will not be in Switzerland to defend his time-trial title.

"Some of the top riders will

not be as motivated because they think their season is finished," he said. "I'm disappointed that Indurain is not here. It would have been good to have had one last crack at him if he is to retire. I don't believe Olano will be in shape for this. Yet world championships are about finding the best riders and July or August is the best time for that, not October."

The news yesterday that the "Superman" riding position,

first patented by the former world pursuit champion, Graeme Obree, could be banned from international competition will come as no surprise to Boardman, who used it to break the world hour record last month. The change in the ruling could make Boardman's record impregnable for several years, provided it is allowed to stand by the international cycling authorities.

More significant for Boardman's ambitions in the Tour de France, his team, Gan, have added the tough Australian, Scott Sunderland, and the experienced Italian, Eros Poli, to their squad for the coming season. By the end of today, Boardman could well have added another world title to his lengthening list. But, as he knows well, the true judgment day will come once again next summer in the Tour.

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GOLF: LURE OF ST ANDREWS ENSURES FORMIDABLE OVERSEAS CHALLENGE FOR DUNHILL CUP

Scotland hoping for glorious twelfth

BY JOHN HOPKINS
COLLEGE CORRESPONDENT

THE twelfth Dunhill Cup starts at St Andrews this morning and hopes are high that, as Scotland bid to make an honourable defence of their title, their chances of doing so will not be overshadowed by more of the extreme weather that has hit this tournament in the past. On occasions in days gone by, the wind has cut to the quick and thermal underwear, ski hats and gloves have been the order of the day. The Old Course is not the coldest golf course on earth but there have been days at this event when it has felt like it.

In the Kingdom of Fife yesterday, the sun shone benevolently, though a wind roared around课程 enough to make its presence felt. Golfers from the 16 participating countries were able to prepare for this event in the knowledge that the autumn

equinox, the moment when day and night are of equal length all over the world, had passed without an undue temperature change.

It is not only players like Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, Nick Price, the 1994 Open champion, and Colin Montgomerie, captaining the Scotland team, who admit to getting a buzz from playing on the Old Course. It is a curmudgeon indeed who travels the road eastwards from Leuchars and whose spirits are not raised at the first sight of a spire or a bell tower or a battlement in the place the Scots refer to as the "auld grey town".

When the Open was here last year, large stands were dotted all over the course and it seemed as though every shop had managed to come up with some angle that made its wares applicable to golf and golfers. The narrow streets were thronged. There was a



Price: relishes playing the Old Course

real sense of a town being en fête. Now the cheering throngs have left, the streets are quieter but the place still retains the feel of a town given over to golf. This, of course, is the extra appeal that accrues to

any event held here. Another attraction almost as great as the Old Course itself is the 17th, the Road Hole, perhaps the most famous hole on the most famous golf course in the world. It exerts its influence at

all times, the difficulty of its 461 yards not being noticeably diminished on a calm day from the threat it poses when a wind is blowing. "It's a par four and three-quarters," Price said. "A five is not bad and a four is very good."

"In the 1978 Open, the Road Hole bunker was probably the hardest in the world," Price continued. "It was higher than it is now; it is now, the roll of was steeper and there was a bigger catchment area. I would say that on a scale of one to ten, it was a ten then and now is down to an eight."

The hole has changed a little for this week's event. "At the Open the rough on the left was much thicker than it is now," Ernie Els, captain of the South Africa team, said. This makes it easier to play the hole down the left from the tee and to the left of the bunker with the second shot. That was the way Phil Mickelson played it in the Open last year and now,

making his first appearance as a member of the United States team, he is determined to play it the same way this year.

Mickelson, Mark O'Meara and Steve Stricker, who are ranked first, fourth and fifth respectively in the United States money-list, are a formidable team and the top seeds. Greg Norman, Steve Elkington and Wayne Riley, of Australia, are the No 2 seeds. The England team, made up of Barry Lane, Jonathan Lomas and Lee Westwood, is not seeded for the first time.

It was Mickelson who put the appeal of golf at St Andrews into perspective. "It is not just the golf course," Mickelson said. "The town of St Andrews adds to the lure of the golf here. The place has the Road Hole, all those golf shops. It is not something that could be duplicated. It is a very special, unique place."

CRISSP RODWELL

Group one
UNITED STATES v ITALY: 12.30: M O'Meara v C Rocca, 12.40: P Mickelson v E Canonica, 12.50: S Stricker v S Grizzagrossi, SPAN v G Norman, 1.00: I Garcia v W Norman, 1.10: M A Elkington v J Lorenzo, 1.20: D Borego v B Lenz

Group two
ZIMBABWE v INDIA: 9.30: A Johnstone v A Singh, 9.45: M McDonnell v G Umar, 9.50: N Price v J Singh
SCOTLAND v SWEDEN: 10.00: A Collett v P Hedstrom, 10.10: R Russell v P Spalding, 10.20: C Montgomerie v J Larsson

Group three
SOUTH AFRICA v CANADA: 10.30: V Westwood v T Todd, 10.40: E Els v R Gibson, 10.50: P Gosselin
IRELAND v WALES: 11.00: D Clark v M Moulard, 11.10: P McGinley v P Alcock, 11.20: P Harrington v P Price
GERMANY v NEW ZEALAND: 11.30: G Waller v P Thiel, 11.40: G Turner v T Gooley, 11.50: P Nobbs v S Stover, 12.00: D Clark v G Waller, 12.10: S Edwards v K Takami, 12.20: G Norman v H Marshall

Civil servants hope to improve account in final reckoning

BY MEL WEBB

FACELESS bureaucrats? Anonymous drones? Not the four civil servants who waltzed into Rockmount Golf Club in Belfast yesterday and calmly put their organisation into the national final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge for the second time in four years.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association reached the final in the inaugural year of the Challenge in 1993, and they signally failed to cover themselves with glory. To be precise, they finished



last. This time there is a grim determination to do much better.

The team in that first year was composed of four good players who, when the big occasion called, did not do

justice to their ability. None of the quartet who will be playing in La Manga this year appeared in that team, but they will be picking the brains of their predecessors in the six weeks leading up to the national final. On occasions like this, a bit of advanced planning never goes amiss.

The winning team in this Ireland final — Eamonn McCarron, Gerry Boden, Roy McGrath and Jim Johnston — were reliability itself. Their plan was to aim for 4½ Stableford points a hole — 81 for the 18 holes. They achieved their target, and more, with 87, to win by two points from ICL, who, in an intriguing sub-plot, beat their computing rivals Digital and Unisys into third and fourth places, with 83 and 82.

The civil servants started on the 10th and the highlights of their round came on their fourth and sixth holes, the par-four 13th and par-five 15th, where they scored seven points each time.

On the 13th, McCarron hit a four-iron and eight-iron, to four feet and made the uphill putt for a net eagle two, worth four points, and Johnston hit four-iron, five-iron and got up and down from a bunker pitch-on the left for a net birdie and three points.

McCarron also featured on the second seven-pointer, striking his five-iron third shot to 25 feet, from where he holed his birdie putt for another net eagle. Boden hit two drivers ten yards short of the green, chipped and two-putted from ten feet for a net birdie.

McGrath did not figure in either of those holes — he saved his best golf for his inward half and played much better than any ten-handicapper has any right to expect.

A member of the Durumin Club, he covered the nine holes in a gross one over par, putting some startling figures down to a newly-acquired driver that is giving him



Billy Alexander, of Wormald Ansul, considers his limited options on the 18th yesterday

greater accuracy and more length off the tee.

"It was exceptional scoring for me," he said. "I had only played at Rockmount once before, and that was last year, so it wasn't that I was all that familiar with the course."

The two seven-point holes apart, the team relied on steadiness rather than fire-works, and, having completed a solid day's work, then had to wait for the better part of 90 minutes to see if the 16 teams still on the course could overtake them. "You dared not hope," Johnston said, "but, somehow, you just could not

stop your mind drifting back to what might have been. It wasn't a pleasant experience."

Apart from their heroics, a small piece of Challenge history was made with the first hole in one in a regional final. The hero in question was Gordon Patterson, of HPSS, who aced the 170-yard 16th with a six-iron. He was duly grateful for the fact that he was not held to the traditional duty of a hole-in-one — buying drinks for all present. It was a relieved Patterson who went home clutching his piece of Waterford Crystal with bank balance undented.

SCORES

87: Northern Ireland Civil Service Association, 85: ICI (North), 88: Digital Co Ltd, 82: Unisys Ltd, 81: Department of Economic Development; CMI Ltd, 80: Brookvale Kitchens; R J Maxwell & Son Ltd, 79: First National Building Society, 77: Robert Keys Group, 78: Fleet Financial (NI) Ltd, 75: Alex Stewart Partnership, 74: MacNaughton Blair & Co Ltd; Northern Ireland Electric plc; Sherwood Systems Ltd, 73: O'Mahony Family; DFDS Transport Ltd, 72: Satchwell Grant; Imperial Tobacco, 71: HPSS; Sunblest Bakeries, 70: Short Bros plc, 67: Wormald Ansul Ltd, 65: Ireland Freight Services.

CRICKET

West Indies pair cleared for counties

COURTNEY WALSH and Carl Hooper will be allowed to continue playing for their English counties — Gloucestershire and Kent respectively — even though they are among 20 players to be offered contracts by the West Indies Cricket Board, aimed at keeping them in the Caribbean (Pat Gibson writes).

Walsh, who is captain of both Gloucestershire and the West Indies, has already assured his county that he will not be prevented from signing a new two-year contract with them, while Hooper, who still has one year left on his existing four-year agreement, has intimated that he is ready to sign a one-year extension.

The board, while stressing its intention to improve its domestic game, is, however, prepared to make allowances in the cases of Walsh and Hooper, who are the only regular West Indies Test players with county sides.

Steve Carrasco, the board's chief executive, said: "We have to respect people who already have county contracts and, in the first instance, it certainly will not disadvantage them from playing for the West Indies."

RADIO CHOICE

Back in the driving seat

The Controllers' Concerts, Radio 3, 7.30pm.

We'll never know whether more brickbats than bouquets have been tossed at the men who have masterminded the musical output of the old Third Programme and its successor, Radio 3. It's a master of record, not speculation, that their tastes have influenced ours, even though Classic FM has now spectacularly entered the equation, and its influence continues to grow. Three past BBC music controllers and the present incumbent, Nicholas Kenyon, have all been invited to devise a concert on successive Thursdays, beginning tonight with Sir William Glock's selection. He chooses works by Mozart and three composers with whom he was closely associated when he was in charge between 1959 and 1973 — Pierre Boulez, Roberto Gerhard and Elliott Carter.

God in a White Coat, Radio 4, 7.20pm.

The title gives to Geoff Watts's inquiry into spiritual healing needs a question mark. By its very nature, there must be as much fact as fact in any conclusions about the efficacy of this kind of complementary therapy. However, the need for a question mark is disputed by the ever-increasing number of healers. They attribute the success of their methods to what they call divine love energy. The "official" medical profession has taken a long time even to contemplate the possibility that spiritual healing can work. Now some family doctors are adding it to the services available at their surgeries.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

All times in BST. News on the hour 5.00 Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.05 The World Today 7.30 Sports, International 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Off the Shelf: Heartwave 8.30 Network UK 9.15 Composers of the Month 9.45 Health Monitor 10.00 Sports Report 10.15 Sports International 10.45 Sports Report 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf: Heartwave 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Islam, Faith and Power 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack X Press 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Good Books 4.45 BBC English 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Teles Five 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Islam, Faith and Power 9.05 Outlook 9.30 Words of Faith 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian (Books) 11.00 World Today 11.45 Sports 12.15am Take Five 12.15 Sports 12.30am Islam, Believe It 1.30 Good Books 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Outlook 2.35 Words of Faith 3.30 Thirty-Minute Drama: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simon 2.00pm Luncheon Concerto Delius (Piano Concerto) 3.00 Nick Bailey 4.00 Classical Network 6.30 Sarah Louisa (Sonata in F major) 7.00am Guide: Sarawak 8.00 Evening Concerto Featuring the winning recordings from the 1995 Gramophone Awards which will be announced today 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Rawburn 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Downtime, with Peter Dailey 7.00 Moz 6.00 Sportsline 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am *On Air*, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F major, Op. 57; Allegro); Corelli (Violin Concerto No 1); Kreutzer (Die Nachst ist Schon); Vivaldi (Recorder Concerto in F, Op. 10 No 1); La Tempesta di Mare; Torke (Run); German Symphony No 2 in A major

9.00 *Music Collaboration*, with Catriona Young. Includes Walton (Façade Suite No 1); Mozart (Oboe Quartet in F, K370); Tchaikovsky (October, Autumn Song); Berlin (Hermine)

10.00 *Music Encounters*, with傅雷 (Tchaikovsky). Includes Adrian Le Roy (*Hes Tu Point Vu*); Grainger (Scandinavian Suite); Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto in G minor); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor); Aristo of the Week: Moura Lympany, piano; Roland Dyens (*Tango en Skai*); Weber (Symphonic Poem No 8 in E)

12.00 *Composer of the Week*: Smetana. Vivace — Nationalism, String Quartet No 1 in E minor (From My Life, 4th mvt); Festival Overture in D; Ceska Pisem; Hornum Jar; Macbeth and the Witch

1.00pm *New Opera Matinee* Double Bill: Martinu (Comedy on the Bridge); Silvana Michel, soprano; Alexander Gunther, baritone; and Herbert Dutck, bass. Ultima (The Broken Jug); Habsburg, bass-baritone, Mario Hofl, baritone

3.00 *Three Score Years and Ten*. Looking back at the history of Choral Evensong, which has been broadcasting since 1920

3.05 *Yehudi Menuhin Plays Bach*. Celio Suites: No 1 in G; BW1007; No 3 in C; BW1009

3.50 *The BBC Orchestra*, BBC Philharmonic, under Matthias Bamert; Dohnányi (Symphonic Minutes); Symphonie No 2 in E

5.00 *Music Machine*, with Tommy Pearson

5.15 *In Tune*, with Anthony Burton. A special edition featuring music and interviews with this year's Gramophone Award-winner

7.30 *The Controllers' Concerts*, See Choices

9.35 *Third Words*. Sarah Maguire listens to fellow poets reading their work on the Third Programme and explores radio's influence on poetry

10.00 *Music Restored*. George Pratt introduces performances from the 1950s. Music Festival programme features a recording from All Saints' Church, Harrowwood, Leeds (5/7)

10.45 *Night Waves*. Michele Roberts celebrates National Poetry Day with an exploration of contemporary trends in poetry in Britain and abroad. Plus a report from the Dublin Theatre Festival

11.30 *Composer of the Week*: Steve Reich at 60 (r)

12.30am *Jazz Notes*, with Gordon Cruckshank. The second part of an interview with Lalo Schifrin

1.00 *Through the Night*, with Donald Macleod. Including 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am *Shipping Forecast* 6.00 News Briefing, incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today's Weather 6.40 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Changing Trains 8.50 On This Day (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.00 News; King Solomon's Carpet, by Barbara Vine, adapted by Nick Fisher 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25 Sports Questions of Taste, Chris Kelly hosts the monthly column/quiz, featuring Jeanne Pilkington, Fem Britton and Simon Fanshaw 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shopping Forecast

2.00 News in the Day, A play by Moya O'Shea

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope

4.00 Paul Allen reports from the first week of the Dublin International Film Festival

The scenic route to a predictable destination

Last night's *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2) was a very infuriating programme, especially if sub-titling has ever been one of your passions or skills. The poet and novelist Ben Okri set out by train across Europe to visit the geographical Arcadia in Greece, and the result was a dreamy film full of unanswerable questions delivered with poetic weight. "Have we lost our way? Have we lost our childhood?" Okri asked. "Is Arcadia a stage on the journey, or is it the destination? Do we travel to escape, or quest?"

Arcadia is a metaphor, you see, for contentment and peace — but we all knew that. Getting the thoughtful Okri to hurry along was the trouble, and mentally blue-pencil his platitudinous voice-over was a thankless job. Whole paragraphs could be replaced by "There's no place like home" or "It's better to travel hopefully than to arrive", but Okri

had to think things through, and we had to watch and admire his long day's journey into trite. The well-tempered garden a small version of Arcadia? Hm-mmm. Okri discussed this novel idea for a lengthy few minutes with a nice French train driver, while at home I exploded with impatience.

Still, it's a long lane that has no turning, and this journey got far from the anecdotal as opposed to the profound. In Greece, Okri interviewed a former undertaker from Cheltenham — now all permanent tan, hippie sandals and iron-grey locks. Loading bodies into coffins had made him appreciate that living is more than being alive, so he had run away and become an artist. "Wouldn't it be magnificent?" Okri said, "if we could all be inspired, in life, by death?"

And on the final stage of his journey, he watched Greek landscape unfold from the back of a

speeding train — a peculiar viewpoint which inspired him, and made a memorable scene. When travelling forwards, he said, things pass us and are gone forever; whereas from the back of the train they just recede ("They always exist"). But for his conclusion he swopped back to the banal again. "What are we looking for?" he intoned poetically, dignifying the doggerel well beyond its potential. *What are we looking for? What do we find?* Arcadia maybe is a state of mind. But of course it is. Ben, of course it is.

In telly cookery circles, you would imagine a moratorium might exist: no more fish recipes in Cornwall until the waiting list at Rick Stein's restaurant shrinks to less than three months. So it was a measure of the sheer nerve of *Two Fat Ladies* (BBC2) that, for their first venture on screen, the eponymous terrify-

REVIEW



Lynne
Truss

ing posh women, Jennifer Paerlson and Clarissa Dickson Wright, marred into Mervagasse by their Wallace-and-Gromit motorbike with sidecar and started demanding omelet from the fisherman.

An imperious manner was once considered a drawback on television, but not anymore. Now it's marketable. "Let's ask him," says Clarissa, as they plod together along the quay in wellies their

hair unflatteringly plastered to their heads by spray and rain. "Who? That kneeling man?" says Jennifer. The only surprise is that she doesn't then call out, "You! Yes, you! Kneeling man!" to get his attention. A slight star in the delivery adds even more entertainment value, and is evidently genuine. "I like having vermouth around," admits Jennifer in the kitchen, later — as she adds it to her scallop juice. "Because I'm not tempted to drink it."

Still, television broadens the mind: it's an escape and a quest at the same time — hey, whip up a poet and get him to make a programme about it. For a while last night you could experience the world from a very particular point of view — of big, well-spoken women in ugly clothes and no make-up who huddle over a big poker-like kitchen instrument and say "What a wonderful weapon" and "Stick it in the burglar". The

cooking was well done, incidentally, and I particularly enjoyed the moment when Clarissa wiped her hands on Jennifer's oven cloth and didn't care. They could eat Delta Smith for breakfast, these two. There's a pleasant thought.

Escape or quest? Well, *Changeling's Moving People* had a mixture of both, as usual. This is a cheaply made but largely inoffensive series, with John Peel introducing three contrasting segments each week — all about real human beings moving house with the aid of bin-liners and heartrache and vacuum cleaners with long hoses that won't co-operate. Last night we had a gay couple (Keith and Gary) moving from a high-rise in Deptford to a new semi-detached in Northampton. Getting their miscellaneous stuff out of the lift, with the door trying to bang shut all the time, was a picture of misery most people will recognise.

In fact it made me want to scream. But just two hours up the motorway (they drove very fast) was peace and happiness in Northampton, with kitchen cupboards they'd designed themselves. As somebody once said: *What are we looking for? What do we find? Arcadia maybe is a state of mind.*

Meanwhile, the second story last night followed a much-travelled British diplomat to Bucharest, and the third showed a released prisoner finding a bedsit. Both travelled light, but for different reasons. The new Romanian Ambassador was taking plastic bags and tennis balls (presumably hard to come by) and his wife's jewellery in a margarine tub. "Home is where we are," said his wife, "so home is now Bucharest." Not a great railway journey, but, surprise, it reached the same conclusion.

• Matthew Bond will appear tomorrow

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (16-75)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (47749)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (5579584) 9.20 Style Challenge (254519) 9.45 Kilroy (229300) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (16294)
- 11.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (IC958519)
- 11.05 Conference Live. Includes speeches from Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor. Includes news at 12.00 (9318126)
- 1.00pm News and weather (Ceefax) (40236)
- 1.30 Regional News (57320923)
- 1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (4450405) 2.00 Call My Bluff (3038) 2.30 The Terrace (s) (516) 3.00 Incognito (s) (8774)
- 3.30 Little Bear (s) (7321836) 3.35 The Chipmunks (s) (1650836) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (Ceefax) (s) (876467) 4.35 Smart (Ceefax) (s) (3695832) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (2444519) 5.10 Byker Grove (Ceefax) (s) (6480923)

- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (376132)
- 6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (395)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (497)
- 7.00 Watchdog. The consumer magazine (Ceefax) (s) (7855)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Kathy asks Grant for his help in her search for the truth (Ceefax) (s) (381)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital. Ruth Harms explores the work of the RSPCA's Hurnsworth Memorial Hospital (Ceefax) (s) (9403)
- 8.30 The Hello Girls. Miss Marriot leaves a cake in the supervisor's room when the girls try to find out what the cake is for, disaster follows (Ceefax) (s) (5010)
- 9.00 Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (173749)
- 9.05 News: Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (580855)

- 9.35 The X Files. Napoleon "Neech" Manley, on death row for more than 11 years, goes to his deathbed to seek to understand his fate. When he dies, Newt, Mulder and Scully are called in to investigate the possibility of reincarnation (Ceefax) (s) (402744)
- 10.20 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with a difference with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker, who are joined by regulars Roy McGrath and Lee Hurst. Tonight's guests are the comedian Jo Brand and the footballer Chris Waddle (Ceefax) (s) (119229)
- 10.55 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs this week's debate from Bournemouth. Tonight's guests are Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, Emma Nicholson, Liberal Democrat MP and Ruth Lea, head of the Institute of Directors' Policy Unit (s) (645940)
- 11.55 Clive Anderson All Talk (r) (s) (921126)
- 12.30 FILM: Which Way to the Front? (1970). Jerry Lewis comedy in which a neurotic millionaire has a strong desire to do something to help the war effort. Directed by Jerry Lewis (852461)
- 2.05am-2.10 Weather (226256)

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CHOICE

- 5.00am Open University: Easing the Pain (7405768) 8.25 Health and Disease (7580403) 8.50 Managing the Health Service: Who Calls the Shots (9075300)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (5242768)
- 7.30 Ahhh and the Chipmunks (4619749) 7.55 Blue Peter (8778126) 8.20 Noddy (1234032) 8.25 Lassie (27300)
- 9.00 The IT Collection (2459497) 9.25 The Art (5652661) 9.45 Writing and Pictures (1612121) 10.00 Playdays (24300) 10.30 Storytime (1951584)
- 10.45 The Experimenter (3478681) 11.05 Space Ark (5655884) 11.15 Welsh History — Famous Peoples (9795687)
- 11.35 Landmarks — Investigating Local History (3806107) 11.55 Believe File: Christianity in Britain (1875213)
- 12.15pm Hello aus Berlin (7368213)
- 12.30 Working Lunch (39867) 1.00 Lifeschool (1724720) 1.25 Mad About Music (1724720) 1.45 Numberline (5733000) 2.00 Noddy (1854531)
- 2.10 Conference Live. Includes speeches by Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister and Gillian Shepherd, Education Secretary (210107)
- 3.55 News (6311942) 4.00 Today's the Day (710) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (294) 5.00 The Oprah Whitney Show (9237768) 5.40 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade (261233)
- 5.50 More Secrets (77359)
- 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (638381)
- 6.45 Conference Talk (s) (776300)
- 7.30 **CHOOSE** Hacka. Follows five students from college to fully fledged journalists (s) (923)
- 8.00 **CHOOSE** The Works: A Death in Hollywood (Ceefax) (s) (7045)



Michelle Newman goes east (3.30pm)

- 8.30 Top Gear. Michelle Newman goes to Prague to find out if the new Octavia will put paid to all those Skoda jokes (Ceefax) (s) (6382)

- 9.00 Neverwhere: Down Street. An urban fantasy. Richard and Door won the sacred key for the Angel Islington but the Marquis has not appeared — because, it appears, he is dead. So they have to journey into the depths of London without him and come face to face with the worst nightmare, and a traitor in their midst (Ceefax) (s) (1652)

- 9.30 **CHOOSE** The System: The Old Guard (Ceefax) (s) (884861)

- 10.25 A Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (206833)

- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (440861)

- 11.15 Late Review (569126)

- 12.00 The Limit: The Remotest Robot (24362)

- 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

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